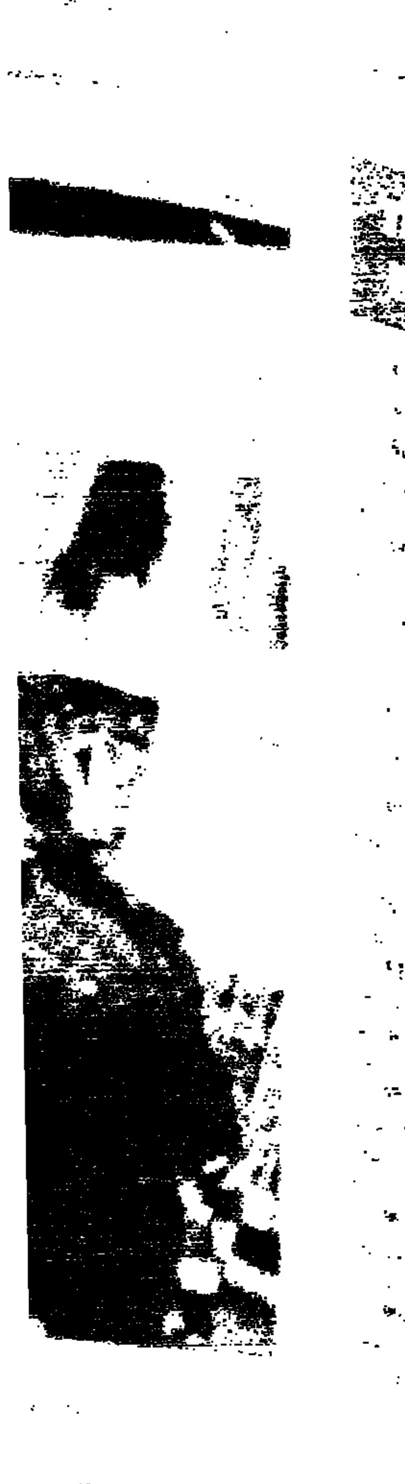
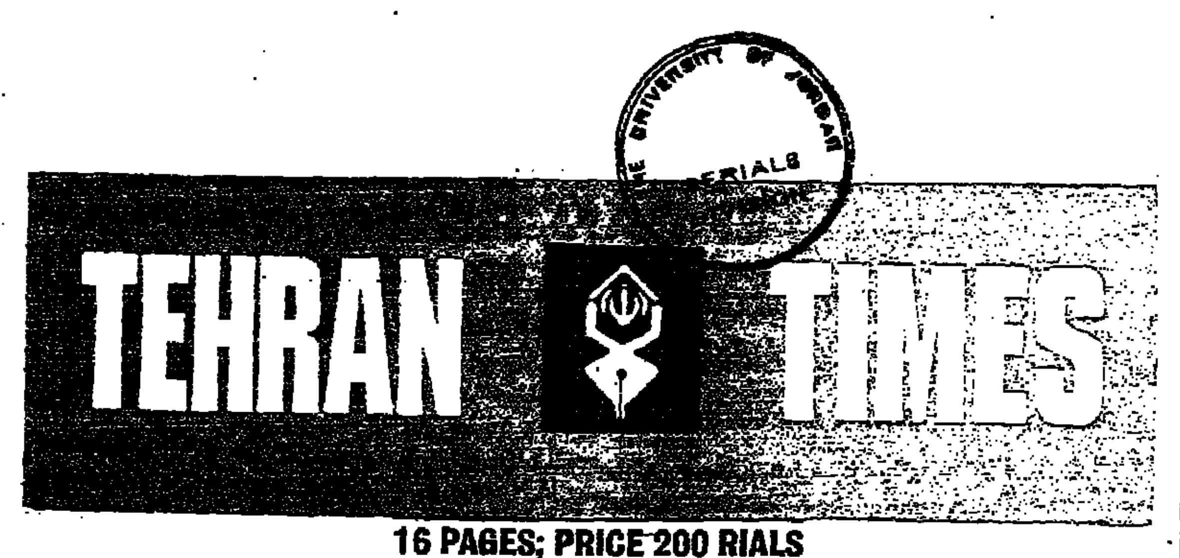


Syria, Russia Slam Planned Israeli Oil Drilling on Golan

DAMASCUS — Syria on Saturday fiercely criticized Israeli plans to drill for oil on the Golan Heights, seized from Damascus in the 1967 war, and accused the Zionist state of a "dangerous escalation."

"The green light given by (Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu to oil exploration in the Golan constitutes a dangerous escalation by Israel and threatens the security, peace and stability of the region," said the government daily *Teshrin*.

(Contd on Pg. 14)



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Battle Between Europe, U.S. May Develop Over UN Posts

UNITED NATIONS — In a sign of European discontent over the U.S. refusal to pay its UN bills, Denmark is considering a bid to oust the American head of the UN Development Program since Washington is no longer the major contributor.

James Gustave Speth, an official in administration of U.S. President Jimmy Carter in the late 1970s, heads a UN agency which promotes economic development in the Third World. His four-year term expires in June.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Chirac Hopes His Trip to Have Tangible Results

PARIS — French President Jacques Chirac arrived back in Paris early Saturday after an eventful Middle East tour during which he strove to make France's and Europe's voice heard in a region dominated by the United States.

Chirac went successively to Syria, Israel, the Palestinian self-rule territories, Jordan and to Egypt. Everywhere he reiterated his wish to see Europe given a political role in the peace process on a par with its financial contribution to the region's economic development.

The highspots of his week-long tour were a visit to Arab East Bait-ul-Moqaddas during which he clashed with Israeli security personnel and the triumphant welcome given him by the Palestinians in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Pushing for a broader European role in the Mideast peace process, French President Jacques Chirac declared Friday that his visits with the region's leaders show there is a determination to succeed, but patience is needed.

"We have a long way to go but, indeed, a lot has been achieved," Chirac said as he fielded questions from students at Beirut's French cultural center near the end of his six-day tour.

"I have seen the leaders. In their hearts, there is a determination, a real will for peace," Chirac said. "We should be patient though, but determined to obtain it. And I am optimistic," he said, before visiting speaker Nabih Berri at Parliament in Beirut's war-wrecked commercial center.

In Lebanon, Chirac won additional support for his campaign to increase European participation in peacemaking. The message was backed during earlier stops in Syria, the Palestinian self-rule areas and in Jordan, but not in Israel, where the government considers France and other Europeans biased toward the Arabs.

Chirac said he hoped Lebanon, a former French colony hosting him for the second time in seven months, would "remain the window of France to the Middle East."

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Caspian Oil Project to Get Up to $150 Million in First Phase

MOSCOW -- An international consortium plans to invest up to $150 million over the next three years in a four-billion-dollar project to develop a major Caspian gas and oil field off Azerbaijan, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported Saturday.

The announcement came at the first meeting of the joint management committee set up for the 30-year project to develop the Shakh-Deniz field. It is estimated to contain as much as 500 billion cubic meters of gas, 190 million tons of oil and 200 million tons of condensate.

In the initial phase, starting early next year, three exploration wells will be established in the field.

The deal, the third oil venture in Azerbaijan involving billions of dollars of foreign investment, is led by British Petroleum (BP) and Norway's Statoil, which jointly control 51 percent of the equity.

France's Elf Aquitaine, Russia's Lukoil, the Iranian State Oil Company and Azerbaijan's Socar State Company each have 10 percent equity shares, while Turkey's state company TPAO has the remaining nine percent.

British Petroleum and AMOCO hold the largest stakes in a 7.5-billion dollar project signed in September 1994 to develop

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Tajik Negotiations Unlikely to Be Held Soon



TOURJANZADEH

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The representative of the Tajik opposition here said on Saturday that it was unlikely that negotiations between the Tajik government representatives and the opposition groups would be held by the end of this week.

Deputy for Tajikistan's Islamic Movement leader, Akbar Tourjanzadeh, made the remark in an exclusive interview with the *Tehran Times*.

The UN secretary general's special envoy to Tajikistan, Gerd Dietrich Merrem, on Friday hoped for a meeting to be held in Moscow between the Tajik opposition groups and the representatives of the government by the end of this week.

Elaborating on the unlikelihood of a meeting by the end of this week, Tourjanzadeh said that, firstly, it is unlikely because the text of the compromise agreement has not yet been drafted, and, secondly, because the leader, Seyed Abdullah Nouri, and his delegates have not yet received their passports.

Despite the fact that they delivered the required documents two months ago, Dushanbe has so far failed to issue their passports. Tourjanzadeh said that the delay indicates that despite its pacifist

(Contd on Pg. 14)

OIC Head Volunteers to Replace Boutros-Ghali

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Hamed Al-Gabid, announced his readiness on Friday to replace the outgoing UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali if the latter is not nominated to run for the second term, according to the United Press International (UPI). Ghali's term will come to an end on December 21.

The United States has announced several times that it would oppose Boutros-Ghali's re-nomination. However, the U.S. has said it would allow another African to replace the Egyptian secretary general.

The Organization of the African Unity (OAU) has nominated Boutros-Ghali to run for the next term. Also, he is strongly supported by France, Russia and

(Contd on Pg. 14)

U.S. Set to Use Force in Korea If Needed: Christopher



CHRISTOPHER

WASHINGTON — The United States is "prepared to respond militarily" to defend U.S. interests on the Korean Peninsula, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Friday.

Speaking against a backdrop of heightened tension on the Korean Peninusula in recent weeks, Christopher spoke in blunt terms to reassure the South and send a clear warning to the communist leadership of the North.

In a speech at the U.S. military academy at West Point, New York, he said North Korea had "raised the stakes" in recent years with its pursuit of nuclear weapons.

While recalling that "important progress" had been made in controlling North Korea's nuclear program, including the 1995 framework accord between Washington and Pyongyang, he said: "We have left no doubt that we are prepared to respond militarily in defense of our interests in this critical region."

The United States maintains some 37,000 troops in South Korea.

President Bill Clinton's national security adviser, Anthony

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Dostam Jets Bomb Taleban Positions

TOUTAKHON, Afghanistan -- Jet fighters belonging to northern warlord Abdul Rashid Dostam bombed Taleban positions northeast of Kabul twice Saturday, sources here said.

Former government soldiers stationed in forward positions in this village some 25 kilometers (15 miles) northeast of Kabul, said there were two separate raids some two hours apart involving a single aircraft each time.

The jets dropped bombs on Taleban positions in the strategic Deh Sabz Pass, the scene of heavy fighting over the last few days.

They said they were warned in advance by radio not to open fire on the jets, which flew off southwards towards Kabul after the attacks.

A Taleban tank was destroyed in the raids, they added.

A spokesman for former government military strongman Ahmed Shah Masood, whose troops are fighting the Taleban along with Dostam's, said the raid was carried out by Dostam's aircraft.

The spokesman also said the anti-Taleban forces would continue "to strike at Kabul airport" so long as the Taleban carried out air raids in their areas.

Earlier an unidentified aircraft bombed Kabul airport.

Two Taleban air raids earlier in the week left at least 16 people dead, mostly women and children.

The raids came as the Taleban leadership confirmed it had opened a new battle front in western Afghanistan against Dostam.

Taleban forces struck at Dostam's men in his western province of Badghis on Friday, seizing the key province and declaring open war on the northern chief, Radio Shariat said.

The radio suggested the militia had struck at Dostam -- who two weeks ago formed an anti-Taleban alliance with the ousted government and other factional leaders -- because he was making plans to attack the Taleban in Herat Province which borders on Badghis.

The militia also seized part of Dostam's Faryab Province -- which lies north of Badghis, from the southern part of which the Taleban launched Friday's attack, the station said.

According to Radio Shariat, the Taleban captured eight tanks and 25 other vehicles from Dostam's forces in their reported advance into Faryab.

No independent confirmation of the advance was immediately available and Dostam has report-

(Contd on Pg. 14)

U.S. City Enters State of Emergency

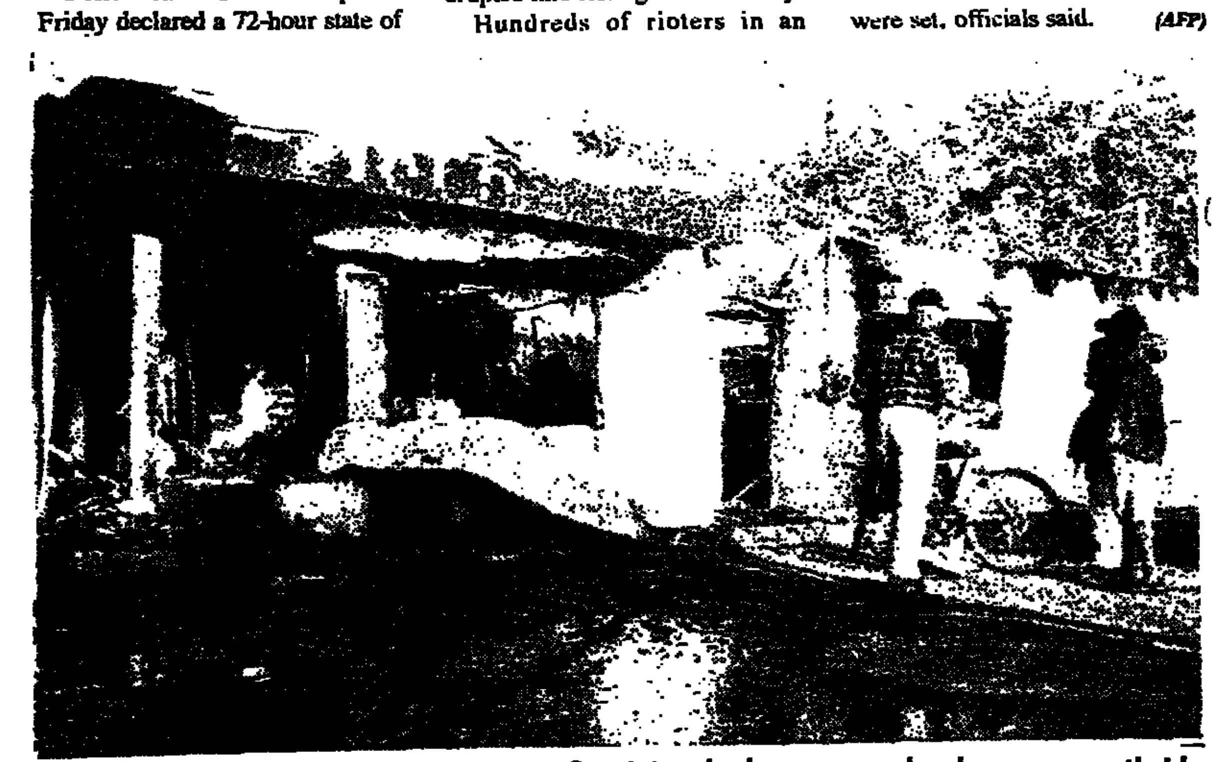
ST. PETERSBURG, Florida — The police chief of this riot-torn southern city declared a state of emergency amid tense calm after the fatal shooting of a black motorist by a white police officer.

Police chief Darrel Stephens Friday declared a 72-hour state of emergency and police with bullhorns ordered angry youths off the streets.

No new disturbances were reported as darkness fell on this city of 250,000 residents which erupted into rioting late Thursday.

Hundreds of rioters in an inner-city neighborhood threw bricks, bottles and set cars ablaze in a five-hour rampage finally snuffed out by police and riot squads after midnight.

At least 12 people were injured and 20 arrested, and about 30 fires were set, officials said. *(AFP)*



PETERSBURG, FL, United States (Oct. 25): Spectators look on as people clean up a southside St. Petersburg liquor, after a night of rioting and looting. The rioting was sparked by an incident between a black youth and St. Petersburg police officer. The officer reportedly shot the youth during a traffic stop.

(AFP PHOTO)

Commitment to Islamic Ideals, Best Solution to Cultural Assault



QAEMI

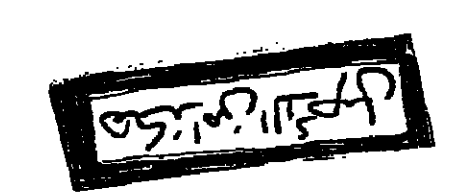
Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN—Member of the Public Culture Council and the Youth Supreme Council, Ali Qaemi, said that people's commitment to Islamic ideals is the best solution to Western cultural assault.

He underlined that, as the most complete religion, Islam provides its followers with the best pattern of life, including the life of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S) and his Infallible Household.

Touching on people's spiritual need, particularly the young generation, he remarked that the

(Contd on Pg. 14)



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In the Name of Allah

They said: We believe in the Lord of the worlds.

(HOLY QORAN)(7:121)

OPINION

Government Is Concerned About Education

The Ministry of Education has granted special privileges for teachers.

In pursuit of educational objectives anticipated by the Islamic government, the Ministry of Education has begun a comprehensive plan to expand education in both quality and quantity. The Iraqi-imposed war, however, postponed those plans.

Since the end of the war various plans have been set in motion, among them a plan for education.

Since the revolution Iran's population has doubled. This, together with a strong desire on the part of the people to be educated, has created difficulties for the Ministry of Education. In the implementation of the Five-Year Developments Plans, various capabilities have been pooled under responsible institutions in order to organize scattered activities.

New measures taken by the government in education are as follows:

Construction of new school builidings, particularly in rural areas.

New educational curricula for various levels of education.

Increasing employment of teachers.

The Ministry of Education has adopted new policies, such as exemption of four hours of work per week for teachers with twenty years' experience or over fifty years of age.

There have been great attempts to increase teachers' salaries. The government has endeavored to increase the living standards of teachers who have been under economic pressures. Fortunately, the Organization of Planning and Budget has granted a budget of 3,300,000,000,000 rials to the Ministry of Education. This is a major step in appreciating the spiritual quality of teaching. Although teaching is one of the most respectable jobs of human societies, material needs are also indispensable.

Iran intends to accelerate its development in various areas by paying close attention to its shortcomings. Some shortcomings in education are acknowledged to be: Financial, teacher training, number of classrooms, adoption of appropriate curricula, and efficiency in implementing programs.

As a sacred occupation in our culture, teaching demands a special concern both spiritually and materialistically. Those who have chosen this career have to be comfortable in their daily lives in order to serve properly. Recent measures taken by the government indicate a deep understanding of this issue.

President Congratulates Turkmen Counterpart

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in a message to his Turkmen counterpart Saparmurat Niyazov felicitated him on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of his country's independence.

In his message, President Rafsanjani expressed hope that Tehran-Ashkhabad friendly relations which have been established in the past few years, would further expand with regards to profound historical and cultural ties between the two countries.

The Iranian president also wished success for the Turkmen government and nation. (IRNA)

Issues Related to Islam, Christianity Discussed

ROME — Secretary of the Council of Guardians Ayatollah Mohammad Emami Kashani discussed issues related to Islam and Christianity with the Culture Minister of Vatican Pio Laghi on Friday.

Ayatollah Emami Kashani is currently in Italy to carry out research activities. (IRNA)

Iranian Embassy in Cyprus Denies AFP Report

TEHRAN — The Iranian Embassy in Nicosia, Cyprus, in a statement issued on Friday categorically denied baseless claims made by the French news agency (AFP) on training of militants from a separatist French Basque Organization by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

AFP in a dispatch from Nicosia alleged that members of the organization were being trained by Iranian forces in the Bekaa Valley in Eastern Lebanon.

The statement added that spread of such baseless lies at a time when French President Jacques Chirac is visiting the Middle East region is surprising.

Only the Zionist regime and the U.S. are discontent with Chirac's visit to the Middle East and thus resort to such baseless accusations, it added. (IRNA)

Lukin Sees No Obstacle in Way of Tehran-Moscow Ties

MOSCOW — There is no obstacle in the way of expansion of Iran-Russia bilateral and regional cooperation, said Chairman of the Duma Committee for International Affairs and Russian former Ambassador to the U.S. Vladimir Lukin in an exclusive interview with IRNA here on Thursday.

Lukin, who was speaking on the eve of his visit to Tehran, said that Iran and Russia shared a common stand vis-a-vis many regional issues, especially those concerning Afghanistan and the Caspian Sea. He said that he would hold talks with the Iranian officials during his visit to Tehran on the said issues.

He called for a fair and just solution for the current crisis in Afghanistan, saying that the only way to restore peace in Afghanistan is formation of a broadbased coalition government as Iran has stated in its proposals.

Lukin said that events in Kabul prove that the Taleban was not at all a fundamentalist Islamic group but an absolutely extremist movement.

On the Caspian Sea, Lukin said that he believed that the legal regime should be worked out solely by the littoral states. (IRNA)

Iran Frees 150 Iraqi POWs Unilaterally

TEHRAN — Some 150 Iraqi prisoners of war were unilaterally released by Iran on Saturday at the proposal of the head of the POWs Commission and approval of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

Spokesman for the commission General Mohammad Balar told IRNA that representatives from Iraq and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were also present in a ceremony held on this occasion at Khosrawi border point, western Iran, on Saturday.

He stressed that the release of Iraqi POWs is in continuation of the Islamic moves and humanitarian measures of the Islamic Republic and a sign of Tehran's good intentions. (IRNA)

Mirsalim Arrives in Ashkhabad



TEHRAN — Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mostafa Mirsalim arrived in Ashkhabad Friday to take part in the ceremonies marking the fifth anniversary of Turkmenistan's independence.

Mirsalim is also to discuss with Turkmen officials expansion of cultural, scientific and educational cooperation during his stay in Ashkhabad. (IRNA)

Kazakhstan Supports Conference on Afghanistan to Be Held in Tehran

ALMATY — Iranian Ambassador to Almaty Hassan Qashqaei and Kazakh Foreign Minister Kasymzhomart Tokayev, in a meeting here on Saturday, discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan.

The two sides also exchanged views on Iran's sincere efforts for establishment of peace in the war-torn country.

Emphasizing the importance of a conference on Afghanistan to be held in Tehran, Tokayev said that such gatherings will certainly have positive impacts on solving Afghan crisis and ending the devastating war and bloodshed in that country.

The Tehran conference can prepare the ground for the forthcoming meeting of foreign ministers of the UN member states to be convened in New York under the supervision of UN to sort out the Afghan crisis.

Praising the Islamic Republic's peace efforts for ending the conflict in Afghanistan, the Kazakh foreign minister said that common stands of Tehran and Almaty in regional and international circles can be effective in breaking the political stalemate in Afghanistan.

The Iranian ambassador conveyed the congratulatory message of Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati to his Kazakh counterpart on the occasion of Kazakhstan's Republic Day, October 26, and underlined the importance of cooperation between the two countries for bringing an end to the infighting in Afghanistan.

Referring to the recent remarks of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev on importance of Tehran-Almaty relations, the Iranian diplomat said that the firm determination of leaders of the two countries will certainly deepen bilateral ties.

On the occasion of the Kazakhstan's Republic Day last Friday, President Nazarbayev, addressing a gathering of all Almaty-based foreign diplomats, emphasized the importance of Iran-Kazakhstan ties and said that the relations between the two countries are strong. (IRNA)

AYATOLLAH MESHKINI:

U.S. Trying to Install Puppet Regime in Kabul

QOM — Ayatollah Ali Meshkini in his Friday prayer sermons here Friday denounced U.S. designs in Afghanistan and said that Washington was trying to install a puppet regime in Kabul by propelling the Taleban militia into the political-military arena of that country.

The U.S. administration with the help of certain other countries is trying to implement its sinister designs over the Muslim country of Afghanistan, he said.

Ayatollah Meshkini called on the Mujahedeen groups in Afghanistan to realize the fact that their country will not see peace and stability through bloodshed and fratricide.

He also referred to the assassination anniversary of the Secretary General of the Islamic Jihad Movement of Palestine Fathi Shaqaqi and pointed that this dear martyr had devoted his life in the service of the Palestinian people for resistance against the Qods-occupying regime.

Fathi Shaqaqi was assassinated on the island of Malta on October 26, 1995 by the terrorist state of Israel. (IRNA)

1,200 More Iraqi Kurdish Refugees Waiting to Enter Iran

SARDASHT, W. Azarbaijan — Another batch of 1,200 Iraqi Kurdish families are waiting at the Qasemrash, Bitosh, and Kalleh border areas to take refuge in Iran, said head of Sardasht's Red Crescent Society on Saturday.

Qasem Hassannejad added that during the past two days a considerable amount of blankets, clothing and foodstuff have been distributed among the arriving Kurdish refugees.

The recent cease-fire between the Baghdad-backed Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) in northern Iraq has provided an opportunity for those who want to escape the fightings to flee the region, Hassannejad added.

The official said that the relief supply operations for more than 30,000 Iraqi refugees are being carried out round the clock in the border regions.

In speeding up the relief operations, teams and resources from the red crescent societies of Charmahal-Bakhtiari, Isfahan, West and East Azarbaijan, Zanjan and Ardebil provinces have also been called in to the region, concluded the official. (IRNA)

Iran's Plan, a Base for UN Meeting on Afghanistan

NEW DELHI — "Holding of the conference of Afghanistan's friends, intended to be convened in Tehran next week by Iran, is being continuously fine-tuned and may well become a preparatory exercise for the meeting planned by the UN secretary general next month," says K.K. Katyal, a noted journalist of India and the editor of India's English newspaper *The Hindu*.

In his article, 'Iran's Plan May Form Base for UN Meet on Afghanistan', published in *The Hindu* Saturday, Katyal added that the Tehran meet will also mark the convergence of views on Afghanistan of some important regional countries such as Iran, China, Russia, India and Central Asian states.

As far as the meet's relevance to Indo-Iran ties is concerned, says Katyal, it will further highlight the commonalty in the two countries' geopolitical goals.

"The collective efforts of these countries, based on their concern over Afghanistan situation, could be a powerful impetus to the efforts for restoring peace and normality there," writes Katyal. (IRNA)

PUK Denies Iran's Involvement in N. Iraq Clashes

SANANDAJ, Kurdestan Province — Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) in a statement refuted the allegation on Iran's intervention in the recent conflict between Kurdish groups in northern Iraq.

The PUK Radio, monitored here Saturday, quoting a statement issued by the Political Bureau of the party called on international bodies to inspect regions under the PUK control and find out about the baselessness of claims made by the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

The KDP radio, in a bid to pave the way for renewal of the bloody clashes of the recent weeks, is repeatedly claiming that Iranian forces and the Badr Division of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) are present in the region, the PUK Radio added.

Although a cease-fire was declared since midnight Wednesday, the KDP Radio accuses the Islamic Republic of Iran of direct interference in the recent inter-Kurdish conflicts.

The PUK Radio on Friday said that the continuous allegations made by the KDP are aimed at concealing its military weaknesses and justifying presence of the Iraqi Army in northern Iraq. (IRNA)

ESCAP Meeting on Infrastructure Opens

By Our Correspondent

NEW DELHI— "We are beginning to realize that without adequate infrastructure there cannot be economic growth and even where growth in industry and trade have occurred according to their own dynamics, their growth cannot be sustained without infrastructure," the Minister of Transport of India, T.C. Venkacraman, told delegates attending the inaugural session of the Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Meeting on Infrastructure which opened today.

Delegates to the meeting started work with senior government officials discussing issues pertaining to infrastructure in preparation for the formal ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure which has been scheduled for October 28-29, 1996.

Pointing to the paucity of resources and the pressing demands placed on the meagre resources of governments by various competing demands of their respective countries, the Indian minister said that "It has not been possible for governments to make available all the resources that the infrastructure sectors call for, and as a result infrastructure has remained neglected."

The ministerial conference aims to highlight the urgent infrastructure needs of countries in the region and seeks to find ways and means to address those needs. Further, it aims to assist member countries achieve a level of infrastructure facilities commensurate to their development objectives and priorities by enhancing their national capabilities in planning and formulating the appropriate policies conducive to efficiency in implementation and delivery of infrastructure projects and related management.

It is to be noted that this year winds up the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1984 and adjusted to cover the period 1992-1996, as a means of encouraging regional infrastructure development.

The ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure which starts on Monday is to launch the New Delhi Action Plan, a plan that would detail the specific infrastructure needs and priorities of ESCAP members and associate members, and suggest a program of action for its implementation at the country and regional levels in a bid to achieve desired objectives.

"Often in our anxiety to create assets and facilities...to accelerate growth, we tend to forget that creation of physical assets, including infrastructure facilities, can wreck havoc on the environment and adversely affect the lives of people," the minister said, emphasizing the need to have a kind of national or regional development that is sustainable by the environment.

Lauding the interest shown by the private sector on infrastructure development by convening the World Infrastructure Forum, 1996, October 30-31, 1996, the minister said that governments, in their attempt to accelerate development, had resorted to direct involvement in the industry and infrastructure sectors of their respective countries and used public investment programs as a tool to promote growth with emphasis on a more equitable distribution of income and wealth.

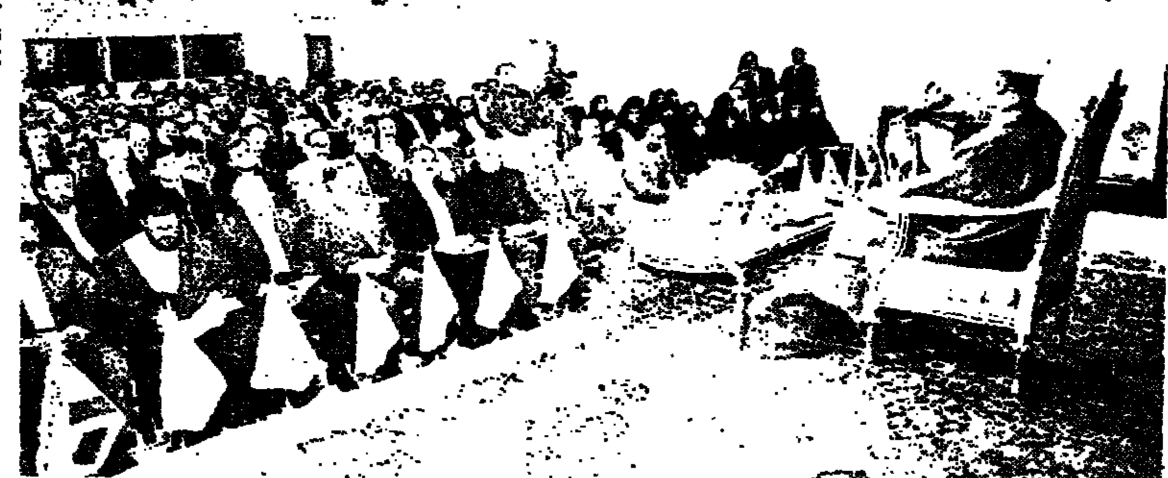
The four-day meeting of hundreds of delegates from the Asia-Pacific region will review developments in infrastructure and tourism intended to lay the groundwork for the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration on Infrastucture by their ministers on Tuesday, October 29, 1996.

ESCAP Executive Secretary, (Contd on Pg.15)

Appropriate Measures in Social Security Sector Great Service to Nation

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, at the inaugural ceremony of the fourth social security congress on Saturday, said that the appropriate scientific and expert measures taken in the social security sector are a great service to the Iranian people.



Photo: Mojtaba Takin

He added that, in view of the widespread poverty among a large proportion of the people in the different countries of the world, it is necessary that research should be conducted in order to find and apply more applicable methods in the social security system.

The useful experience gained by the Islamic Republic of Iran in social security sector, elimination of backwardness and principled support for the workforce has laid a proper foundation for the expert researches of the scholars in the developed and develping countries, Rafsanjani noted.

The president went on to say that some 58 percent of the urban population and nearly one-third of the whole Iranian population are provided with social security insurance, which indicates the special emphasis laid by the government on the elimination of backwardness and support for the country's workforce.

Through implementation of extensive construction projects as well as supporting the underprivileged strata and also long-term planning, Iran will turn into a a model country on the international level in the near future, he said, adding that the Islamic Republic of Iran is willing and prepared to share its useful experience with members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and other friendly countries.

At the inaugural ceremony, which was attended by the social security ministers and officials from Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, the Managing Director of the State Social Security Organization, Mehdi Karbasian, said that some 21 million Iranian people currently enjoy the services of the Social Security Organization.

He added that 40 hospitals, 220 medical treatment centers and 21,500 medical treatment units, which are under contract to the Social Security Organziation, offer medical services to the insurance policy holders all over the country.

Development of Physical Infrastructure Requires Fundamental Change in Policy, Planning

By our correspondent

NEW DELHI, Oct. 25 — Governments have historically played an important role in the development planning, especially in the finance, development, operation and maintenance of infrastructure services and facilities.

However, the emergence of infrastructure bottlenecks as constraints to economic and human development and the insufficiency of public sector savings to maintain and develop physical infrastructure and services requires fundamental changes in infrastructure policy, administration and planning, the delegates of the ESCAP member countries emphasized here today.

The delegates from ESCAP member states are currently here to finalize the New Delhi Action Plan for the approval of their ministers on 28-29 October.

Referring to the significant progress the developing member countries of the Asian and Pacific region (especially Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Tiwan) have made, the delegates said these impressive economic performances are, however, placing considerable pressure on the physical infrastructure of all country groups.

This pressure is apparent in power brown-out or black-outs, water shortages, traffic congestion in major cities, long waiting times at major ports, and low call completion rates for telephones, they added.

Touching on the reasons for the above problems, the delegates said, the causes of these infrastructure shortages and bottlenecks have been ascribed to many factors including insufficient funds for development, operations and maintenance, insufficient public sector allocation of resources to the sectors, inadequate planning of development and insufficient attention to post-construction operation and maintenance of assets, etc., which in turn affect not only the financial viability of the undertakings but also the level of utilization of their production by consumers.

Referring to the need for more transparency on the part of government plans as well as the need to adapt policy and plannings to the emerging situation, the delegates stressed that the above examples of progress in development and infrastructure deficiencies signify that many of the original justifications for extensive state intervention in industry and infrastructure are rapidly diminishing.

Despite the emergence of the private sector as a major force behind dynamic growth, many of the basic legislative, administrative and other structures, as well as the rules, procedures and practices which evolved for a high level of (Contd on Pg.15)

Iran-Dubai Cooperate in Creation of Ground Transportation Co.

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN-Chief of Dubai Chamber of Commerce, Hasan Mohammad bin Ale Sheikh Nayeb, along with members of the joint commission of the chamber conferred with Iran's Acting Minister of Commerce, Noqre Kare Shirazi, on Saturday.

During the meeting, Shirazi alluded to the good relations between the two countries and expressed hope that the level of relations will reach the desired level given the new grounds prepared for enhanced relations between the two countries.

He added that by using the Islamic Republic of Iran's transportation facilities, especially Bandar-Abbas-Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railroad, Dubai can have mutual and multilateral cooperation with Iran in the area of export of goods.

The acting commerce minister said Iran's private sector is prepared to make investment in native free zones and that the commerce ministers of the two countries can pave the ground for greater export activities between Iran and Dubai at regional level.

Meantime, Sheikh Nayeb said the measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran for transit of goods is not only to the benefit of the region but to the world countries.

He voiced his country's readiness for creating a ground transport company in cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran and expressed hope that the company initiates operation in the area of export and transit with mutual following up.

He added that given the fluctuations in international market in 1996 relations between Iran and Dubai have remained at good level.

"Exchanges between Iran and Dubai have been noticeable and payments have been made on time", Sheikh Nayeb said.

Trading in TSE in One Week

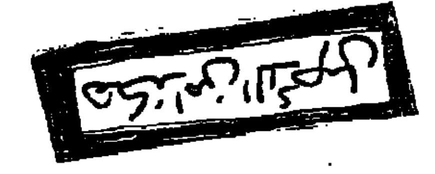
Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Some 21,822,344 shares, worth over Rls.96 billion, were traded in 8,869 turns for 5,368 applicants here at Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) during October 19-23.

Shares of 63 companies increased, while those of 64 others declined. Shares of 13 companies remained unchanged compared to previous week, IRNA reported.

General index price of shares for the week reached 2,126.51 points, down by 21.48 points, compared to last week.

In the Tehran Stock Exchange Monday was the busiest day of the week, when some 8,819,563 shares, worth over Rls.35.8 billion, were traded in 1,559 turns for 766 applicants.





CHILDREN'S PAGE

The Greedy Mouse

Once upon a time, there was a small village in which an old farmer lived. He had a farm and he grew wheat for a living. Each year he had a lot of harvesting to do. He would pour the grains of wheat into large bags and put then in the corner of his room.

One day two mice discovered the wheat in the bags and they soon formed a plan. The mice made a hole in a wall of the room for a home. Every time the farmer was away, the mice made holes in the bags and took wheat to the mouse hole. The days passed in this way and soon there was a lot of wheat stored away for the mice.

One day one mouse said to the other, "My friend, we have stored much wheat. W'd better stop before the farmer finds out and we get into trouble.'"

The second mouse replied, "What are you saying? We will never find such a good opportunity again. Let us gather more; as long as the old farmer does not find out, there is no need to be afraid.



Then the fist mouse said: "I will not come with you any more, because I do not want to put my life in danger."

"You are a coward," said the second mouse. "Starting tomorrow, I will go alone and gather more grains of wheat to bring to the hole. I do not need a cowardly friend like you."

From the following day, the greedy mouse gathered more grains of wheat for himself.

One day the farmer decided to check his bags of wheat. When he got near, he saw that they were full of holes and he got angry. The farmer put a mouse trap near the bags of wheat so that the bad mouse would get caught. That same day, when the greedy mouse went toward the wheat 'SNAP' suddenly he found himself caught in the trap.

(Courtesy Mahjubah)

Migration, a Qoranic Concept

We often see flocks of birds soar high in the clear sky. They move from one region to another in search of food and shelter. They fly long distances and face many different difficulties to start a new life.

When we study history we find that so many people have emigrated from their own country to another to seek a better life or to escape from oppression.

In our Islamic history, for example, when the early Muslims were oppressed by the polytheists, they emigrated to Al-Habashah to perform their religious rites and to worship the One and only Allah.

The Holy Prophet Mohammad (S) also emigrated to Medinah to protect his faith. But the plythe-ists there plotted against him. Sol the Most High Allah saved him from them.

The Hijra date began when the Prophet (S) emigrated to Medinah. Muslims usually use this date to record historical events.

Economic, social and ideological reasons force people to emigrate. They emigrate to



improve their standard of living, to find suitable habits and customs, and to keep their beliefs safe.

Prophet Ibrahim (AS) emigrated from Iraq to Jordan and Palestine to protect his faith from the tyrants ruling then. He (AS) said, "I am fleeing to my Lord, surely He is the Mighty, the Wise."

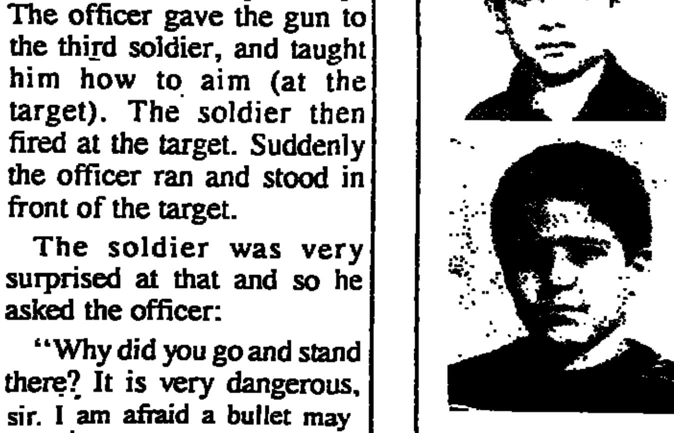
Prophet Moses (AS) emigrated with his people from Egypt to Palestine to keep his faith safe from the Pharoahs of Egypt.

Muslims emigrated to Medinah for the same purpose. They wanted to set up Islamic rule.

Without doubt, faithful emigrants leave their countries, wealth, properties and sometimes their families. These are great losses. But Allah, the Most Glorified, compensates them for losses in this world. And their reward will be greater in the next world. In this regard, Allah says, "And whoever flies in Allah's way will find in the earth many places of refuge and abundant resources; and whoever goes forth from his house flying to Allah and His Apostle, and then death overtakes him, his reward is indeed with Allah and Allah is Forgiving, Merciful."

Nowadays, many Muslims live out of their countries, away from their people. This is because the unjust governments fear them and their activities. So the oppressors persecute, torture and force them to move from one country to another.

(Courtesy Al-Huda)



An officer took with him a few soldiers to the shooting place to test them. Two of the soldiers fired at the target and hit it precisely. The officer gave the gun to the third soldier, and taught him how to aim (at the target). The soldier then fired at the target. Suddenly the officer ran and stood in front of the target.

The soldier was very surprised at that and so he asked the officer:

"Why did you go and stand there? It is very dangerous, sir. I am afraid a bullet may hit you".

"All your bullets went to the right and left", said the officer I feared that I might be killed so I stood here, because it is the only place your bullets didn't hit!".

TOP STUDENTS



Reza Niktalab
Grade 2 Elementary School
From Tehran



Hussein Hassanbeik
Grade 3 Elementary School
From Tehran

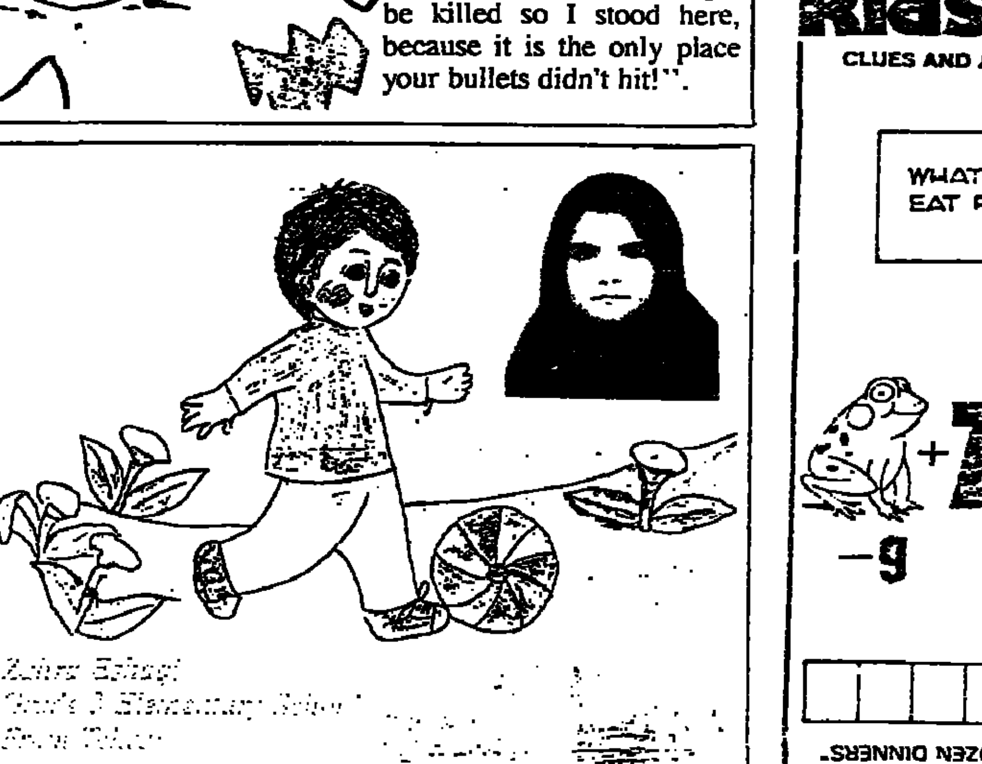


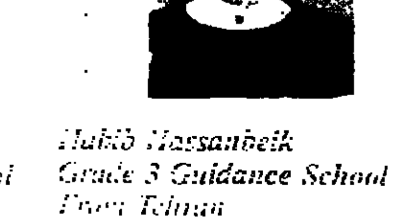
Habib Hassanbeik
Grade 3 Guidance School
From Tehran

The Morning Song

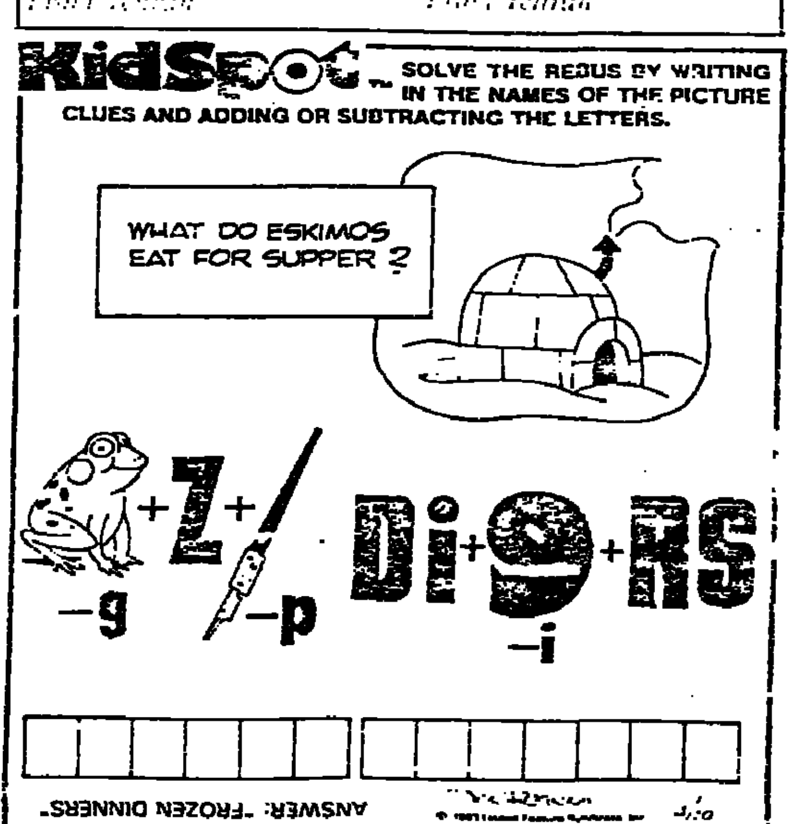
At the time of sunrise, birds fly in
Search of food
Flowers bloom in a happy mood
In all the houses alarm clocks ring
Ding dong ding dong ding ding ding
Everything is fresh, everything is green
Everyone is busy to be so clean
The sky is God, the earth is bright
Thanks to the sun and its light
Some go to school, some to work
The buses start and stop with a jerk
But everyone is happy and gay
For it is the beginning of a new day.

N. Sahithi Reddy
V, St. Joseph School, Anantapur.





KidSpot — SOLVE THE REBUS BY WRITING IN THE NAMES OF THE PICTURE CLUES AND ADDING OR SUBTRACTING THE LETTERS.



Leila Heidari
Grade 3 Guidance School
From Harsin



SPORTS SUMMARY

Tehran Times Service

SOCCER

PARIS – French first division leaders Paris St Germain crashed to their first defeat of the season on friday when they were beaten 2-1 at Rennes — enabling Monaco and Auxerre to close the gap at the top of the table. Paris St. Germain, who have 29 points from 14 matches, remain three points clear of Monaco and four points ahead of Auxerre. Monaco came away 4-1 winners from lille and Auxerre handed out a humiliating 7-0 lesson to visiting Lyon. Elsewhere there were several unexpected away victories. Lens came away 1-0 winners from Bastia, Le Havre beat Metz 2-1, Guingamp inflicted a 1-0 defeat on Caen and Nantes scored a 1-0 success at Marseille.

LONDON – Two goals from Neil Redfearn earned Barnsley a share of the points against English first division pacesetters Bolton Friday night — but the visitors remain four points clear of rivals Norwich in the Premiership promotion race.

TENNIS

STUTTGART, Germany – ATP Tour Chief Executive Mark Miles has strongly attacked last summer's decision by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) to move the rich Grand Slam Cup in Munich smack into the middle of the autumn tour tennis season for 1997. "It was a self-centered decision, " said Miles, speaking at a presentation here on Friday for next month's ATP Tour World Championship in Hannover, Germany. The ATP tour, which runs the Men's Computer Ranking System and sanctions more than 75 events over 44 weeks per year, is fearful that inserting a 6 million dollar temptation for top players in the time period will spell disaster for tour events.

STUTTGART, Germany – Top-seed Pete Sampras stifted his game into top gear to power past rival Andre Aghassi 6-4, 6-1 in the quarter-finals of the atp event here Friday. Sampras now plays in-form Dutchman Jan Siemerink who upset fifth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic in straight-sets. Boris Becker also reached the last four when he defeated Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson 6-2, 6-2. He now plays world number two Michael Chang who dismissed Chile's Marcelo Rios 6-3, 6-4.

LUXEMBOURG – Impressive French newcomer Anne-Gaelle Sidot stretched her winning streak here Friday by reaching the semi-finals of the WTA Tournament after dropping just three games to Katarina Studenikova of Slovakia. Other players through to the last four are top-seed anke Huber of Germany, third seed Barbara Paulus of Austria and fifth-seeded Karina Habsudova of Slovakia.

BOXING

LONDON – Lennox Lewis' bid to regain the WBC heavyweight title looked set Friday to go ahead — but in the courtroom and not in the ring. And if Lewis' promoter Panos Eliades has got his sums right, the legal bout could result in damages amounting to a total of 6.7million pounds (around 10 million dollars) if original agreements are not observed. American promoter Don King last week named December 7 as the date for Lewis's proposed fight against oliver Mccall which will decide who succeeds Mike Tyson as WBC holder.

GOLF

TULSA, Oklahoma – British Open Champion Tom Lehman took a four-stroke lead over rivals at the halfway stage of the PGA Tour Championship Friday. A second-round 67 left him seven-under-par on 133. Fiji's Vijay Singh (71) was in second place, and Steve Stricker (68) was third — five shots off the pace.

BRISBANE, Australia – First-year Australian professional Justin Cooper manoeuvred himself into contention for a 74,300 us dollar payout with a course record 64 in the second round of the Tournament Players Championship Friday. Cooper carded seven birdies and his seven-under-par score on the 6,078-metre Robina Woods course eclipsed the previous record of 65 set by Queenslander Paul Foley in 1990. He is 131 after 36 holes.

SOTOGRANDE, Spain – England's Paul Curry, winner of only one European tour title in his 17-year career, heated up the contest here at the 900,000 pounds Volvo Masters at Valderrama Friday — jumping to the lead at the tournament's halfway stage. The 35-year-old added a 69 to his opening 68 for a five-under-par total of 137.

CRICKET

FAISALABAD, Pakistan – Zimbabwe, in a remarkable comeback, scored 136 for three by stumps on the second day of their second test against Pakistan here Friday. Alister Campbell, playing a captain's innings, made 74 and David Houghton 51 when play ended. The two scored 113 in a fourth wicket partnership to level Pakistan's 134 run lead.

FARIDABAD, India – Allan Donald and Daryll Cullinan turned in star performances on Friday to steer South Africa past Australia and into the final of the triangular cricket series here. Donald, the pace spearhead, grabbed four wickets in eight balls to cut short Australia's innings from 212 for five to 215 all out after mark Taylor won the toss and elected to bat. Then Cullinan, who hit 106 against India on Wednesday, sealed the two-wicket win with a gritty unbeaten 71. The hard-earned victory, coming with two overs to spare, was South Africa's fourth in as many matches of the three-tier preliminary league, guaranteeing them a place in the final at Bombay on November 6.

TABLE TENNIS

NIMES, France – China's World number-one Kong Linghui was dumped out of the World Cup Table Tennis event here Friday in his worst-ever loss in a major international competition. In the shock of the tournament, and perhaps even in world cup history, the reigning world champion crashed 16-21, 21-13, 21-17 to Brazil's Hugo Hoyama, ranked just 58th in the world. Hoyama's victory meant that France's Patrick Chila and Sweden's 1992 olympic champion Jan-Ove Waldner had definitely made the top two places in GROUP A.

BASEBALL

NEW YORK – Former Major League Baseball player Frank Torre, the older brother of New York Yankees Manager Joe Torre, underwent heart transplant surgery on Friday. The 64-year-old Torre has suffered three heart attacks and has been hospitalised for more than two months awaiting a donor. The donor heart came from a 28-year-old man who died in the Bronx Thursday night.



TORONTO, ONTARIO, Canada (Oct. 25): Mark of Esteem gets a workout in the early morning hours at Woodbine Race track in Toronto. Mark of Esteem, trained by Saeed bin Suroor of Dubai, is favored to win the Mile race which is among the seven races of the Breeders' Cup.

(AFP PHOTO)

Vladikavkaz New Favourites to Keep Russian Title

MOSCOW — Alania Vladikavkaz went top of the Russian League on Friday after an unexpected slip by main challengers Spartak Moscow and are now favourites to retain their title on the last day of the season.

Alania, who have trailed Spartak and outsiders Rotor Volgograd for much of the season, won 2-0 at already relegated Tekstilshchik Kamyshin while Spartak needed an 85th minute goal to secure a 1-1 home draw against mid-table Rostselmash Rostov.

Both sides are on 69 points but Bakhva Tedeyev's goals in the 37th and 87th minutes put Alania top because they have one more win. They also appear to have the easiest closing fixture on November 3 when they play Lokomotiv Nizhny Novgorod at home.

Spartak face a difficult away tie at Zenit St Petersburg, whose coach Pavel Sadyrin detests the Moscow side and inspired his team to a fine 2-0 away win over them in July.

Rotor, leaders before last weekend's games, stumbled again by losing 2-0 at Lokomotiv Moscow and stay on 67 points, dropping to third place.

They face struggling Uralmash Yekaterinburg next week but can only win the title in the unlikely event of both Spartak and Alania losing.

Spartak started the day in top spot, knowing they could virtually clinch the title if second-placed Rotor lost.

The Moscow team — who won the Russian championship three years in a row from 1992 to 1994 — attacked from the start but were defied by their opponents' rugged defence and the woodwork.

Spartak looked down and out in the 83rd minute when veteran defender Sergei Gorlukovich conceded a free-kick 20 metres out and Rostov Rotor lost two crucial points in a 0-0 draw at struggling Chernomorets Novorossiisk and then accused a linesman of being drunk after he had ruled out a goal.

But Chernomorets showed the result was no fluke by pulling off a stunning 3-1 win at fourth-placed Cska Moscow, who until last week had an outside chance of the title.

Lada Togliatti and Tekstilshchik are already relegated and the third team to join them looks likely to be Uralmash, who lost 2-0 to Dynamo Moscow.

The Yekaterinburg side face the wrath of Rotor next week while Kamaz Naberzhnye Chelny are away to Rostselmash. If both sides lose Kamaz will stay up because they have recorded one more win than their rivals.

(REUTER)

Dare and Go Said Ready to Battle

TORONTO — Superstar Cigar seemed to be in top condition Friday with a strong 1-1/4-mile gallop around the Woodbine Track a day before the six-year-old likely will end one of the greatest careers in history.

"He was moving well, handling the track fine. He's awfully sharp, awfully good," said Cigar's Trainer Bill Mott of the Defending Champion in Saturday's Breeders' Cup Classic over the same distance he ran Friday.

Richard Mandella, the trainer of dare and go, who at 6-1 is expected to be Cigar's toughest opponent in the Classic, was not quite as effusive in rating the condition of his horse, part of an entry with the weaker Atticus.

But he did say +as far as we can see he looks good and we think he is in the same shape as before the Pacific Classic,' a reference to the race last august when dare and go halted Cigar's consecutive victory streak at 16 for a tie with the great citation for the modern-day record.

Mott was very aware of the pressures that come with success.

Cigar has "been so good on so many occasions — in his last 20 races — there's been no time that he's not been good," Mott said. "He's probably set very high standards for himself, and people have come to expect nothing less than what he's done before. that's tough to repeat over a 20-race period."

Cigar, who has won 17 of his last 19 races, was set as the 4-5 favourite Wednesday after drawing the seventh post position for the $4 million race, which has a first-place prize of $2, 080,000. second place is worth $800,000 and third $480,000.

Yanks music, the three-year-old Filly who will try to shatter the glass ceiling in the Classic, 'went pretty quick' in her three furlong workout Friday, said trainer Leo O'Brien.

"She's ready to run. She was acting like she was wanting to roll this morning. She has no problem with the track."

Asked if the 35-2/5 seconds time for his Filly was too fast the day before the big race, O'Brien said: "a little bit slower work would have been better maybe. With all the excitement going on, she was well wound up when she worked. she was aggressive. But better to be aggressive than to be too quiet."

(REUTER)

Ari Vatanen Wins Last Ever Hong Kong-Beijing Rally

BEIJING — Ari Vatanen of Finland on Friday became the first - and last - person to win the 555 Hong Kong-Beijing Rally twice.

After a grueling 3,800 kilometers (2,356 miles), just 43 seconds separated Vatanen from second-placed Richard Burns of Britain.

Both men drove Mitsubishi Lancers, as did third-placed finisher, Kenjiro Shinozuka, completing a 1-2-3 sweep for Mitsubishi in the last ever Hong Kong-Beijing Rally.

The Rally, first held in 1985, will be run in a different format next year, along World Rally Championship Lines.

Of 52 cars that left Hong Kong last Saturday, 23 made it to the finish Friday on Beijing's Tiananmen Square, having covered some of China's most grueling terrain and raced near the Great Wall.

"To finish this event at Tiananmen Square is a very, very fitting end to an important moment in rallying history," said Vatanen, who also won in 1993 and led this year's seven-day race from day four.

He completed 26 special stages totalling 484.75 kilometers (300.5 miles) in 5 hours, 1 minute and 27 seconds.

(AP)

Kimura Widens Solo Lead in Second Round

TOJO, Japan — Masanobu Kimura stretched his solo lead into a second day, widening the advantage to four strokes Friday in the 200 million yen (dlrs 1.79 million) Philip Morris Golf Championship.

Kimura, who led overnight by two strokes, birdied four consecutive holes at mid-course for a total of seven birdies against two bogeys on his way to a 67 on the 7,176-yard, par-72 ABC golf club course in western Japan.

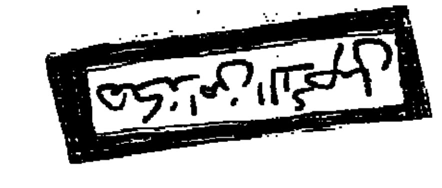
He is seeking his third Japan PGA Tournament victory this season.

Yoshinori Kaneko shot a no-bogey 68 to lift himself up into a tie for second with Russ Cochran of the United States at 137.

Fellow American Brian Watts is another stroke back, while Hisayuki Sasaki and Yoshitaka Yamamoto share fifth place at 139.

Tied seven shots behind Kimura at 140 are Chen Tze-Chung of Taiwan, Hideki Kase and Kiyoshi Maita.

(AP)



Eight Dead in Attack on Passenger Train Near Algiers

CAIRO — Egypt said on Friday the future of Middle East peace talks rested solely in the hands of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and denied Egypt had incited the Palestinians to delay an agreement on the town of Al-Khalil.

President Hosni Mubarak told a joint news conference with visiting French President Jacques Chirac that Israel would cause "a big disaster" if it failed to carry out agreements it signed with the Palestinians before Netanyahu came to office.

Chirac said he fully agreed with Mubarak's analysis of the causes of what he called the crisis in Middle East peace talks.

"The solution is in the hands of the prime minister of Israel alone — It's to stick to what's been agreed. We are not asking for a miracle," Mubarak said.

Otherwise all Israel's agreements with its neighbors, such as Egypt and Jordan, would be in doubt and Middle East governments would be anxious and hesitant, he added.

"If another government comes and says, 'No, we won't play this game," it will be a disaster. My God so then the Labor Party might come and say: 'No, we don't agree with the Likud. Give back the Golan, give back Sinai, or give back the West Bank', then it would be a big disaster," he added.

"One day he (Netanyahu) could break with us what we signed in the days of (former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem) Begin. He could break the agreement with Jordan," he said.

Mubarak said that during recent negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians over Al-Khalil, Israelis had spread rumors that Egypt was holding the Palestinians back. *(Reuter)*

ALGIERS — Eight people were killed and more than 30 wounded in a bomb attack on a passenger train south of Algiers, according to media reports Saturday.

The train from the western city of Oran ran over several gas canisters buried under the rails and packed with explosives about 15 kilometers (10 miles) south of the capital late Thursday, according to the reports.

U.S. Reaffirms Willingness to Confer With Iran

WASHINGTON -- The United States reaffirmed on Friday its longstanding willingness to begin a dialogue with Iran.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said that comments on the subject on Thursday by Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau in Dubai did not represent a policy change. Pelletreau told a gathering of businessmen that the United States is "open to dialogue" with Iran.

"Sometimes you do need to talk to your adversaries, you do need to talk to governments with which you have little in common because it's a way to communicate if those communications can be useful," Burns said.

"We don't right now have these diplomatic conversations because the Iranians haven't taken us up on this longstanding, multi-year U.S. policy," he said.

"The Europeans have a very different policy," Burns said. "Most of them have diplomatic representation in Tehran, they have a normal diplomatic relationship, they have a very active commercial relationship."

He said there is not a "shred of evidence" that the "critical dialogue" between Europe and Iran has succeeded. *(AP)*

Jordanian Monarch Fears 'Major Disaster', Sees Role for Europe

PARIS — King Hussein of Jordan said in a television interview Friday that he sees the risk of a "major disaster" if the peace process is not put back on track.

"We are at the edge of the cliff," the monarch said in an interview with the Station France 3.

Asked about a possible European role in the negotiating process between Israel and the Palestinians, Hussein said it could prove a reinforcing element.

French President Jacques Chirac's effort to include Europe in the peace process has stirred discussion, and disagreement. The United States and the Russians have sponsored the peace process, but it is the Americans who are leading the negotiations.

Chirac pressed his position with Arab and Israeli leaders during a week-long Middle East tour that ended Friday.

"I think that for a balance, the position of the United States can only be strengthened by the help of France and Europe," Hussein said.

"More than ever, I believe we need all our friends to reach our objectives,"he added.

Hussein, saying time was of the essence in the stalled negotiations, said he feared most "the psychological moment where all hope is lost.

"When that happens, we will be facing a true disaster," Hussein said.

(AP)

(Contd from Pg.1)

TAJIK...

image, the Tajik government is not sincere. Rather, the government wants to make it appear that the opposition groups are reluctant in peace-making.

Referring to recent statements by the Tajik Foreign Minister, Talabak Nazarov, who said that the government is ready to employ members of the opposition in government positions, Tourjanzadeh stated that this is not something new. He stressed that when the idea was proposed to Nouri last year, he rejected the proposal, considering it against the peace formula set forth by the opposition.

Nouri has said that the government wants the opposition to nominate its candidates for the posts, to employ them, and then dismiss them whenever it wants.

The opposition groups have always announced that they would share the government only under the condition that the government forms a national reconciliation council with the participation of Tajikistan's Islamic Movement and other opposition groups.

According to the peace formula proposed by the opposition, the council is expected to form a coalition government which would hold presidential elections within 12 to 18 months. Parliament and other organs in the system will continue their activities during this period without any alteration.

The opposition predicted 40 percent participation in the coalition government for the Islamic Movement, and 40 percent for other opposition groups, and 20 percent for the present government.

Until very recently the people in Lenin-Abad and Hesar were pro-government; today, however, they have sided with the opposition.

On Saturday Nazarov expressed hope that, with the aim of restoring a lasting peace, negotiations be held in Moscow as soon as possible.

He stressed that Dushanbe will not hold a national reconciliation council, as it is against the Constitution. There is, however, no problem in sharing power with the opposition.

(Contd from Pg.1)

OIC...

several Arab countries.

The next UN secretary general is to be elected in November. According to Al-Gabid's supporters, he is qualified for the post due to his experience in handling international issues.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

CASPIAN...

three other Azerbaijani offshore fields -- Azeri, Chirag and Gyuneshli.

And last November, Lukoil, Italy's Agip, and the U.S. Pennzoil signed a three-billion-dollar deal to exploit the Karabakh field, with oil reserves estimated at 85 to 150 million tons.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

CHIRAC...

A European role in the peace process, particularly a French one, "does not mean canceling that of the main partner, the United States, but it serves as a supplementary role," Hariri was quoted as telling French radio.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

DOSTAM...

edly denied losing ground to the Taleban warriors.

Meanwhile on the new road north of Kabul Saturday there was little military activity, except for several artillery rounds fired by Taleban gunners.

Rival forces from the ex-Kabul government, backed up by infantry from Dostam's Uzbek faction, were still dug in at Bagram Airbase 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of Kabul, which was re-captured from the Taleban just over a week ago.

Taleban on the new road stated that the bodies of "many dead" Dostam soldiers were still lying in the desert after a failed attack three nights ago against the mountain ridgeline that the jets bombed Saturday morning.

Many Taleban were seen on the move in jeeps, and by truck, towards the Taleban new road frontlines on the northern side of the bombed mountain ridgeline. Journalists are barred from this forward area.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

U.S...

Lake, recently said the conflict between the two Koreas was among the world's top five most-pressing problems.

He said Washington should pressure them into beginning peace talks in order to avoid a crisis.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told a news briefing in Washington that Christopher was not alluding to an 'imminent threat."

"We don't believe there is any imminent threat," he said, adding that Christopher was merely "reaffirming a well-known policy."

On Thursday, U.S. and North Korean officials met in New York for talks and were tentatively scheduled to hold a follow-up meeting next week.

North Korea's delegation to the talks was led by Lee Hyong-Chol, a high-ranking official in the North Korean Foreign Ministry, Burns said.

Burns reiterated U.S. warnings that the United States would view any test-firing of a medium-range North Korean ballistic missile as "destabilizing."

"On the case of the missile test, the United States cannot confirm that the North Koreans have tested a missile. We're not aware that they've tested a missile," Burns said.

"But we are aware of some statements made by the North Koreans that they intend to test a missile, and our position on that has not changed. We are opposed to it.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

COMMITMENT..

youth must be familiarized with sound thoughts and Islamic principles of life, and that families and culture-related organizations shoulder a heavy responsibility in this regard.

On practical ways of confronting the West's cultural onslaught, as an active member of the Youths' High Council, Qaemi said that families should rear their children in such an Islamic way that they would be able to firmly resist any means of cultural assault.

Speaking of the courage of young martyrs of the Islamic Revolution, Qaemi said martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of Islam and the values of the Revolution were trained in genuine and religious Iranian families which follow the guidelines of the Qoran and instructions of the Prophet (S).

Meanwhile, he underlined that familiarizing the world with different aspects of rich Islamic culture is a key measure that should be taken in the campaign against cultural assault. He said that Iranian cultural consultations abroad can have a decisive role in this regard.

He further termed well-formulated programing in education as another effective weapon vis-a-vis social difficulties, saying that all culture-related organizations should follow the same path in a bid to pave the way for strengthening the cultural principles of the society.

Elaborating on the meaning of culture in general, he said that it comprises different aspects of life—science, thoughts, literature, customs, values, art along with other social issues.

He emphasized that 'public culture' is a part of culture which is common to 70 to 80 percent of the society.

As for the relations which exist between the 'public culture' and the ruling system of the society, he stressed that the system of the society certainly can have positive or negative impact on 'public culture.' Lack of regularity in the ruling system and people's disobedience to the law leads to chaos and disorder in the society.

Qaemi reiterated that in countries based on religious values, such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, people are committed to the law, because their laws stem from their religious beliefs, Qoran and the *Sonah* of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S).

(Contd from Pg. 1)

SYRIA...

DAMASCUS — Syria on Saturday fiercely criticized Israeli plans to drill for oil on the Golan Heights, seized from Damascus in the 1967 war, and accused the Zionist state of a "dangerous escalation."

"The green light given by (Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu to oil exploration in the Golan constitutes a dangerous escalation by Israel and threatens the security, peace and stability of the region," said the government daily *Teshrin*.

The Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* said Friday that Netanyahu had given the National Oil Company permission to start drilling on the strategic plateau, annexed by Israel in 1981, two months ago.

Teshrin accused the Israeli government of trying to "deliberately sabotage what little hope of peace remains by this stupid decision which shows up Israel's real plans for the Golan."

Syria is demanding the return of the Golan under any peace deal with the Zionist state, while Netanyahu has insisted Israel will never give up the plateau.

He has repeatedly called on Syria to re-start peace talks, on ice since February, without setting pre-conditions of any kind.

"Nobody in the world recognizes the annexation of the Golan by Israel," said *Teshrin*, adding that "all decisions taken with regard to this territory are null and void."

"The Golan is the key to war or peace in the region," said the paper, adding that it would be impossible "to make peace without the return of this Syrian territory and the retreat of Israeli forces as is demanded by UN resolutions."

Haaretz said the Israeli government's deputy legal adviser Menni Mazuz also approved the oil project on the grounds that the Golan was part of Israeli territory since its annexation.

The National Oil Company has invested one million dollars in preliminary surveys and hopes to extract a total of two million barrels of oil worth $24 million, said *Haaretz*.

The Russian ambassador to Syria, Victor Gogitidze, also said at a news conference Saturday that the Israeli decision was a provocation.

Gogitidze said, "our position is very negative concerning this provocative decision which certainly does not bring the Arabs and Israel closer together."

The Russian ambassador said that his country's foreign minister, Yevegeny Primakov, will bring "practical proposals for relaunching" the Syrian-Israeli negotiations when he begins a tour of the Middle East Monday in Damascus.

Primakov will then travel to Lebanon, Israel, the Palestinian territories, Egypt and Jordan.

Russia, which co-sponsors the Middle East peace process with the United States, "is establishing contacts and making daily efforts to prevent the political impasse from turning into a military confrontation" between Syria and the Zionist state, Gogitidze said.

"We support our friends, especially Syria," he added.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

BATTLE...

For years, the United States had been the chief contributor to the UN Development Program, which is a UN agency separate from the headquarters but subordinate to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

Last year, however, the Republican-controlled U.S. Congress slashed the country's contribution from $113 million to $ 52 million for this year.

That dropped the United States to seventh place among the voluntary contributors behind Japan, Denmark, The Netherlands, Germany, Norway and Sweden.

As a result, UN diplomats say Denmark, which contributes $105 million, has informally suggested the post be filled by its development minister, Poul Nielson.

UN sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, say Speth is well-respected by major donor countries. They also said Denmark's proposal is a sign of western European discontent with the United States.

"The Europeans don't believe the Americans should have that kind of influence unless they pay their bills like everyone else," one European diplomat said.

Earlier this month, President Clinton signed a bill authorizing payment of $660 million, about half for the regular UN budget and half for peacekeeping. The payments would almost halve Washington's debt to the World Organization.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said it would be "very unwise" for anyone to mount a campaign against Speth. Burns said the Clinton administration had asked Congress to appropriate $78.7 million for UNDP.

Nevertheless, European diplomats complain privately of the U.S. attitude toward the United Nations. The United States was withheld payments to demand UN reform. The Clinton administration opposes Boutros-Ghali's reelection because he was allegedly sluggish in pressing for reform. *(AP)*

WEATHER

The I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 27°C, Min. temp. 15°C

Clear to Partly Cloudy

Warmest Points:
Kahnouj, Ahwaz, Manjil 35°C

Coldest Point:
Boroujen -2°C

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max. °C	Cities	Max. °C
Riyadh	34	Vienna	12
Istanbul	13	Moscow	3
Rome	17	Madrid	20
Athens	16	Abu Dhabi	30
London	14	Karachi	33
Paris	13	New Delhi	29
Frankfurt	16	Kuwait	33

Shooting of Japan's Police Chief Ordered by Aum Sect

TOKYO – A policeman and former member of the Aum Supreme Truth Sect, who allegedly admitted shooting Japan's top police chief last year, has said it was ordered by the Doomsday Cult, newspapers said Saturday.

Police said the officer, whose name was not disclosed, alleged he shot Kunimatsu on the orders of senior officials of the cult, the *Mainichi Shimbun* said, quoting police sources.

But the officer appeared to become emotionally disturbed whenever he was asked about his connection with the cult, and his confession contained ambiguity and discrepancies, the *Yomiuri Shimbun* said.

Police are questioning the 31-year-old officer on suspicion of gunning down national police agency chief Takaji Kunimatsu, 59, who was seriously injured but has since recovered.

The National Police Agency Saturday also summoned senior officers of the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department to ask them for a briefing on the questioning, which reportedly started several months ago, the Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) said.

The agency was not told of the policeman's suspected involvement until the day before the story broke in the media Friday, indicating that the Tokyo police were responsible for a cover up, it said.

The agency is concerned that a cover up could mislead citizens into believing the police were defending one of their own and adversely affect the morale of police officers nationwide, NHK said.

The shooting came 10 days after a deadly nerve gas attack on the Tokyo Subway in March last year and during the investigation into the connection between the sect and the gas attack. (AP)

(Contd from Pg.3)

ESCAP...

Adrianus Mooy, in a message to the meeting, stressed that economic growth is an important factor in development and the improvment of the quality of life of people. He said the provision of adequate and reliable infrastructure services in all areas—transport, electric power, telecommunications, water supply and waste disposal are crucial to economic growth.

He further pointed to the supply of infrastructure facilities in the nature of roads, health and educational facilities in rural areas as contributing directly to the alleviation of poverty.

In the last decade, his message noted, countries in the Asia-Pacific region have attained exceptionally high rates of economic growth.

He said their years of rapid growth have also served to critically strain their existing infrastructure, while insufficiency thereof has been found to significantly hinder the expansion of trade and investment. In an attempt to provide the needed infrastructure, governments in the region are placing more emphasis on the private sector for development and/or efficient use of existing infrastructure, the secretary-general said.

Some forty ministers are expected to attend the ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure which will adopt the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (1991-2006), a plan that will embody proposals for action at the country and regional level.

JUDICIARY CHIEF:

Women Judges Under Consideration

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said that the possibility of women justices is under consideration in the judiciary.



Yazdi made the remark on Saturday on the occasion of the new academic year for judicial students. In his address to the students, Ayatollah Yazdi stressed that *taqwa* or piety should be given a greater role in social life and government responsibilities.

It is especially important for a judge to observe *Taqwa* while investigating a case and discerning right from wrong.

Delegates From Islamic Countries Stress Unity Among Muslims

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – The delegates from the Islamic countries that participated in the second preliminary session of the planning committee for an Islamic parliamentary union, in separate messages sent on Saturday to President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Nateq Nouri, praised the attempts made by Iran at converging the viewpoints of the world Muslims.

In their message to Rafsanjani, they noted that the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran are aimed at foiling the plots of the imperialism and global arrogant powers, which are flagrantly doing their utmost to isolate Iran and impose an economic blockade on it.

The participants in the second preliminary session in their message underlined that the U.S. through passing the d'Amato law, which is an open intervention in the internal affairs of other countries, has ignored all international accords and conventions.

According to the message, the delegates decided to hold the first conference on the Islamic parliamentary union in Pakistan and the second gathering in Tehran. They also decided to set up the union's interim secretariat in Tehran.

In their message to the president, the participants in Tehran congress expressed their gratitude to the Iranian nation, Majlis and the Islamic government for holding the fruitful session in Iran.

Ceremony Marks First Anniversary of Fathi Shaqaqi's Martyrdom

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The first martyrdom anniversary of the former Secretary General of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement, Dr. Ibrahim Fathi Shaqaqi, was marked here on Saturday with a special ceremony held in Arq Mosque, attended by several senior Iranian officials, members of the martyr's family and also a large group of the Tehran residents.

Fathi Shaqaqi, the martyred leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement was assassinated by the criminal agents of the intelligence service of the Zionist regime (Musad) in October 1995.

Speaking at the ceremony, one of the Tehran representatives in the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis), Hojjatoleslam Majid Ansari, said that the martyred Palestinian leader, who was a stalwart follower of the late Imam Khomeini's path, did his utmost to retake the occupied territories from the Zionist aggressors.

Ansari added that the Palestinian issue is the concern of Muslims throughout the world and stressed that the Muslims should spare no pains to liberate the Palestinian lands from the occupation of the Zionist regime.

Meanwhile, the representative of the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in Tehran, Abu-Jihad, voiced readiness to follow the path of Dr. Fathi Shaqaqi and resist the Zionist aggressors.

Iran to Introduce Role of Muslim Women to the World

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN–Head of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Social, International and Women's Affairs, Fatemeh Hashemi told IRNA on Saturday that her department is attempting to complete the final phase of the Women's International Organization's charter within the framework of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

As for the function of the department, she said it aims to strengthen women's non-governmental organizations in the country, familiarize women's organizations with international issues, and create further coordination among women's organizations within the country.

Hashemi further stressed that the department spares no effort in making other nations familiar with the rights of women and their real position in Islam.

Hashemi said that the organization deals with several women-related international issues, such as women's rights, violence against women, women's non-governmental organizations, the establishment of women's convention for the eradication of discrimination between men and women, and the activities of the OIC's inter-parliamentary union.

The department also reviews the violation of women's rights in other countries, particularly in Western countries.

Hashemi outlined that the organization is also responsible for answering baseless allegations against Iran about the violation of women's rights.

Stressing that the introductoin of the real role of Muslim women to the international community is one of the main objectives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, she said that Iran wants to coordinate its policies with other Islamic countries in this regard.

As for the department's domestic activities, Hashemi reiterated that it monitors the activities of domestic women-related organizations regarding the implementation of resolutions issued during the Fourth Women's Conference in Beijing.

She added that other social issues, such as the fights of children, youth, the elderly, the disabled, and families are also to be reviewed.

Regarding Iran joining the Children's Rights Convention, Hashemi said that the Department of Social, International and Women's Affairs is now preparing a report on the convention's implementation in Iran.

In conclusion, Hashemi called for further cooperation between the United Nations' Social and Economic Commission and women's organizations in Iran.

Crews Hunt Last of Fires to Ground as Windy Weather Threatens

LOS ANGELES – A 100-acre (40-hectare) arson fire fanned by gusty winds raced out of control Friday night in Ventura, scorching brush near homes as residents in some areas evacuated.

The fire started at about 7 p.m. and was burning towards a heavily populated subdivision, said Ventura county fire spokeswoman Nina Raya.

"We have established that it was arson," said county fire spokeswoman Shy Malone, declining to elaborate.

The blaze, burning just north of the city hall, left a weaving line of flame in the hilly area and sent up an eerie pall of backlit smoke.

Residents on the fire's northern end were ordered to evacuate late Friday night, but Raya said no buildings had burned and no injuries were reported. It wasn't immediately clear how many people were evacuated.

Homeowners were packed and ready to move even before they were ordered to flee.

"I put a few things in the car," said Ann Carter. "We'll head down the hill when they tell us to."

The area about 60 miles (95 kms) northwest of downtown Los Angeles was buffeted by winds of up to 60 mph (95 kph).

About 500 firefighters were on the front lines. Crews were already on alert in the region because of the weekend forecast of dangerous Santa Ana winds. (AP)

Tigers Blast Navy Boat

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka – Tamil rebel suicide bombers rammed an explosive-laden boat into a navy vessel in northeastern Sri Lanka Friday, killing at least nine sailors, a military official said Saturday.

The navy's fast attack Dvora craft had been patrolling the outer perimeter of the Trincomalee Naval Base, when the rebel boat with two suicide bombers aboard, rammed into it, said the official, spoking on condition of anonymity. (AP)

(Contd from Pg.3)

DEVELOPMENT..

state intervention have not been sufficiently adapted and are no longer appropriate to the changing economic environment, the delegates said.

They also added: It is these institutional arrangements, combined with the utilization by governments of the infrastructure sectors as instruments of macroeconomic policy, which have contributed significantly towards the reduced efficiency with which infrastructure facilities and services have been delivered.

One approach to overcome this problem is to encourage private sector participation in financing and management, which has traditionally been the domain of the public sector.

The above changes in policy and planning can considerably encourage the private sector to participate in the infrastructure sector, the delegates stressed.

(Contd from Pg. 11)

SPECTER......

was ravaged by a rebellion in which at least 500,000 people were killed.

That rebellion was organized against the central government by communist-inspired groups whose leaders included Christophe Gbenye, Joseph Mulelle, Albert Kalondji and Antoine Gisenga. Grouped under the banner of the Congolese National Movement (MNC) they claimed to be the heirs to Patrice Lumumba who died in 1961.

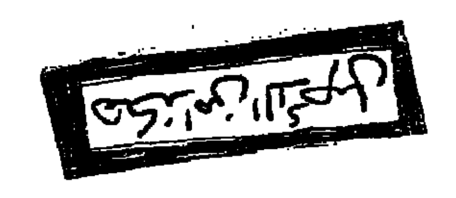
The Lumumbist Movement disintegrated long ago and Gbenye and Gisenga after being sentenced to death, were pardoned in 1995. Today they are "advisers to the republic" and members of the transitional Parliament and with other members of the radical opposition, are each trying to resuscitate what remains of the Lumumba political heritage.

But the various political parties in Zaire, including that of Mobutu's arch foe Etienne Tshisekedi, all speak with one voice to "defend Zaire's territorial integrity" which Mobutu succeeded in preserving in 30 years of autocratic rule.

They all reject any strategy designed to exacerbate ethnic rivalries among Zaireans. But all insist forcefully that hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees, whether Hutus or Tutsis, must "go home" more than two years after the ethnic bloodbath in early 1964 in which at least 500,000 people, mainly Tutsis were massacred.

On Friday, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali called for an international conference to solve what he called the "regional war" in the Great Lakes region.

"The situation is accentuating the risk of further disintegration of an important African country, namely Zaire," British UN Ambassador Sir John Weston warned. (AFP)



Good Deed Lands Ohio Grandmother in Jail

CINCINNATI – A grandmother who tried to help a stranger by feeding a parking meter wound up in jail instead.

She was arrested on Thursday evening by a police officer who saw her put coins in an expired meter. She said she did not know who owned the car but thought she would help out.

"He started to write a parking ticket after I put the money in the meter," she said. "He said I was interfering with his duties."

The dispute landed Spayton in jail for three hours before family members bailed her out. She was released on a $1,500 bond.

(Reuter)

Nepal Officials Hunt Killer Tiger

KATHMANDU – Police and soldiers in western Nepal are hunting a man-eating tiger which as so far killed at least four children, the state-run RSS news agency said Friday.

Local officials from the villages of Pidikhola, Sisarkot, Kalkakot, Thum Pokhara and Swarek, in Syangja district, were quoted as saying that so far they had failed to track the animal which has been preying on the area for several weeks.

They blamed the problem on the destruction of the tiger's natural habitat, saying deforestation in the area was forcing the animals to move closer to villages to find food.

(AFP)

Refugees Injured, Take Flight After Attacks on Zairean Camps

GOMA, Zaire – Tens of thousands of refugees were Saturday fleeing in panic after an attack on their camp north of the eastern Zairean town of Goma in which 20 people were injured, aid workers said.

Humanitarian sources said gunshots "from the Rwandan border," only 300 meters (yards) away, were aimed at the Kibumba camp which lies at the foot of a volcano about 25 kilometers (15 miles) north of Goma.

UN officials said from Nairobi around 200,000 Rwandan Hutus refugees, lacking water and food, began to move out from the camp after the shootings.

"The picture is not clear," said an official.

A spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said 20 refugees had been admitted to hospital in Goma run by the Red Cross.

UN World Food Program Spokeswoman Brenda Barton said from Nairobi that Zairean forces were attempting to block the road to prevent the refugees reaching Goma, where residents fear a major influx could create a humanitarian catastrophe.

Kibumba is one of the biggest camps in north Kivu Province, temporary home to around 700,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees who fled from their own country fearing reprisals after the 1994 genocide in which Hutu extremists slaughtered half a million people, mainly Tutsis.

Fighting has been raging between ethnic Tutsis known as Banyamulenge and Zairean government troops in the volatile border region with Rwanda and Burundi, uprooting another 300,000 Hutu refugees and Zairean villagers.

(AFP)

Greek Ferry Runs Aground

ATHENS – A Greek ferry with 400 passengers ran aground off an Aegean Sea island Saturday, leaving 14 people injured – four seriously -- and all the others stranded, the Greek Merchant Navy Ministry said.

The injured passengers, including a pregnant woman, were transported to land from the ferry which got stuck off Patroclos shortly after setting off from the southeast port of Piraeus for the Cyclades group of islands.

Authorities ordered two other ferries in the area to evacuate the remaining passengers while they tried to refloat the boat.

The ministry said early reports indicated a fault with the ferry's rudder was to blame for the accident.

(AFP)

MANILA, Philippines (Oct 25): Protestors stage a rally near Malacanag Presidential Palace to denounce the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the trade related measures under the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT). Manila will host the APEC summit on November 25.

(AFP PHOTO)

Opposition-Led Strike Closes Businesses Throughout Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan – Businesses throughout Pakistan were closed Saturday in response to a strike call by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's political opponents who are demanding her resignation and early elections.

Scores of students in eastern Lahore burned effigies of Ms. Bhutto and briefly blocked the main roads with burning tires. Waving their hands and shouting, "Down With Benazir. She's Ruining Pakistan," students marched through streets.

Police in riot gear were deployed in Pakistan's major cities to prevent any violence.

Dozens of armed police stood guard outside the rambling colonial-style brick headquarters of the Pakistan Muslim League, the biggest opposition group in Pakistan.

In the southern port city of Karachi, the country's financial heart, where strikes have begun a routine form of protest, the stores were shuttered and many streets deserted.

Saturday is a regular holiday for the financial institutions.

On the streets of Karachi, a usually bustling city of 14 million people, there was little traffic.

(AP)

Ex-Defense Minister Arrested in Bribery Scandal

SEOUL, South Korea – Former Defense Minister Lee Yang-Ho and three businessmen were arrested in a bribery scandal that has embarrassed President Kim Young-Sam.

After 1 1/2 days of questioning, Lee admitted that he received $178,000 from Daewoo Heavy Industries Co., a defense contractor that was seeking a combat helicopter project under study by the military, investigators said.

Lee, a retired air force general, was abruptly dismissed as defense minister last week, hours before an opposition party raised accusations against him.

South Korea's vast military had been plagued by corruption scandals in past military governments. Lee's case suggests, however, that corruption is still pervasive in the military despite President Kim's several year-long campaign to fight graft.

Daewoo, the nation's fourth largest conglomerate that owns Daewoo Heavy Industries, acknowledged that the company gave $365,000 - packed in two briefcases - to a Korean-American arms dealer in March 1995 to bribe Lee.

The arms dealer, Kwon Kyong-Ho, met South Korean reporters in Beijing earlier this week and said he passed one briefcase to Lee, asking him to launch and expand the helicopter project, for which Daewoo had invested heavily.

Seok Jin-Chul, head of Daewoo's auto-making joint venture in Poland, was arrested Saturday. Seok was president of Daewoo Heavy Industries when the alleged bribery deal took place.

(AP)

India to Probe Assault of Journalists by Pugnacious Leader

NEW DELHI – The Indian government on Saturday said it would investigate an attack on journalists by the founder of a party of Hindu "Untouchables" and his supporters at the leader's residence here.

Home Minister Indrajit Gupta said New Delhi "will follow the normal course of action" during the enquiry into the assault on reporters led by Kanshi Ram, chief of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP, Majority People's Party).

Condemning the Friday night assault which led to the hospitalization of four photographers and reporters, Gupta said: "I don't know why Kanshi Ram became so angry."

Gupta's announcement came as 400 reporters and photographers clashed with police in the Indian capital on Saturday during a protest rally against Ram, witnesses said.

Journalists from dailies, magazines and news agencies flayed Ram, founder of the BSP, which recently contested state polls in Uttar Pradesh after forging an alliance with the Congress (I) Party of former Premier P.V. Narasimha Rao.

The police used teargas and water cannons as the journalists broke through barricades and marched on the federal Parliament before staging a sit-in outside Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's office, they said.

The protesters screamed anti-BSP slogans and demanded Ram's arrest, said one marcher, a photographer with a Western news agency. "Several people on both sides were injured but there were no arrests," he added.

The protest came a day after Ram led the attack on photographers and journalists while they were staking out his residence.

(AFP)

Black Paint for Greek President

ATHENS – A protestor with money problems threw black paint at Greek President Costis Stephanopoulos as he emerged from a cathedral Saturday, missing him but hitting a minister and several guards, police said.

The paint was thrown as Stephanopoulos left the cathedral in the northern city of Salonika after a service marking a Greek victory against the Ottoman Empire.

A 60-year-old man was arrested and said he did it to protest at financial difficulties.

It was not the first time the president was targeted in such a way. A woman threw red paint at him in summer.

(AFP)

Japan's LDP Drops Plan to Form New Government With Socialists

TOKYO -- Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has effectively dropped a plan to form a new government with its pre-election coalition partners, press reports said Saturday.

"There is no way we can," Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto was quoted by JIJI press as saying after his LDP failed to narrow policy differences in talks with the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and new party Sakigake.

Hashimoto's remark was a sign he was changing his stance on having the SDP and Sakigake remain in his coalition, JIJI said.

SDP head Takako Doi ruled out the possibility of joining the new government, saying: "We have started policy talks ... but please don't think we will extend the previous stance."

Leaders of the three parties – the LDP, the largest force in the coalition, the SDP and new party Sakigake – held their first meeting Friday since last week's general elections.

During the Tokyo meeting, the SDP offered tough policy proposals as a condition for its continued alliance with the LDP, including an immediate ban on political donations from companies.

The SDP also proposed setting up a committee to review a planned consumption tax rise and withdrawing U.S. marine corps from Okinawa, where anti-U.S. sentiment is running high following last year's rape of schoolgirl by U.S. servicemen.

(AFP)

Natural Gas Futures Rocket Higher on Low Storage Worries

NEW YORK — Natural gas futures prices posted their biggest one-day gain Friday since February amid a race to replenish low supplies in some parts of the country before sharply colder weather sets in.

On other markets, copper futures rose sharply, while coffee futures retreated.

Natural gas in storage is at 83 percent of capacity, or about 9 percent below last year, according to the American Gas Association.

While there appears to be adequate supply to meet demand in the northeast, supplies in the Texas producing region and on the west coast are dangerously low, said Analyst Scott Conner at KCS Energy in Houston.

"People have been racing to fill their inventories, and a lot of people still feel we're not where we need to be going into the winter," Conner said. "Any cool weather in November is bound to put some serious pressure in inventories."

The National Weather Service later reported that cool weather is indeed coming. The middle two-thirds of the country, from northern New Mexico to upper Michigan, is expected to see temperatures sharply below normal over the next 10 days, the agency said.

Natural gas is the primary source for heating most American homes and businesses. Prices last year rocketed higher after cold weather froze some well equipment and amid a shortage of pipeline capacity.

The expiring November natural gas contract settled 16.7 cents higher at dlrs 2.652 per 1,000 cubic feet. The December contract rose 14.8 cents to dlrs 2.704.

Heating oil, unleaded gasoline and crude futures also rose amid speculation several refineries will have brief shutdowns at a time whenhheating oil and unleaded gasoline supplies remain low.

December light, sweet crude rose 35 cents to dlrs 24.86 a barrel; November heating oil rose 1.23 cents to 71.72 cents a gallon; November unleaded gasoline rose .88 cent to 70.10 cents a pound.

Copper futures prices rose sharply after the London metal exchange announced another sharp decline in its warehouse inventories, leaving supplies close to five-year lows.

The exchange reported 13,525 tons were withdrawn from its warehouses since Tuesday, leaving 145,825 tons. the decline elevated copper futures to their highest level since the June 13 announcement of massive unauthorized copper trading losses by a former Star Japanese trader at Sumitomo Corp.

Copper prices have been slowly retracing the lost ground amid a serious shortage of scrap copper, which has forced buyers to turn to the more expensive refined copper in exchange warehouses.

Industrial production, meantime, is on the rise in Europe and the United States, while demand from China is booming. New supplies, however, have been coming to the market much slower than previously estimated.

"We've seen 120,000 tons of copper withdrawn from LME warehouses since September because of this seasonally strong demand," said metals analyst David Rinehimer at Smith Barney Inc.

December high-grade copper rose 2.20 cents on the New York mercantile exchange to 97.15 a pound.

Coffee futures prices fell back in the active contract month after the Colombian Coffee Federation announced truck drivers were back on the job after striking for nearly two weeks.

Futures trading had ended, however, before the Federation announced green, Arabica coffee earmarked for October shipment would be delayed into December.

Colombia was scheduled to deliver 1.1 million bags of coffee in October, but will fall short of that goal by about 200,000 bags, said Jorge Cardenas, the federation's president.

That means roasters will have to scramble to find coffee already in short supply ahead of the heavy winter consumption period.

Stocks on New York's coffee, sugar and cocoa exchange fell a sharp 80 percent this week.

December green, Arabica coffee fell 1.45 cents to dlrs 1.16 a pound. (AP)

IMF Delays Huge Loan to Russia — Again

MOSCOW — The International Monetary Fund's decision to delay another huge loan payment to Russia was a serious warning to the government that its efforts to crack down on tax evasion are failing.

Russia's Central Bank announced Thursday that 10 days of talks with an IMF mission in Moscow had not produced an agreement. The mission was leaving town friday without paying the next installment of a dlrs 10 billion loan.

Similar problems caused the fund to hold up a monthly loan tranche in July. The monthly payments of dlrs 340 million were resumed a month later.

Russia's budget planners are grappling with an unprecedented fall in revenues. The government has moved against some of the largest tax deadbeats and has created an emergency tax-collection committee, but officials admit they have been unable to reverse the decline.

Finance Minister Alexander Livshits told Parliament this week that the budget is under 'extreme stress'. Over the first nine months of the year, he said, Federal revenues were just 71 percent of targets, forcing huge spending cuts.

Tax revenues over that period were only 65 percent of targets, leaving the government 71 trillion rubles (dlrs 13 billion) short.

Livshits said he hopes the latest attempts to crack down on tax evasion will yield results by the end of the year, but warned that the situation remains tense.

The IMF's delay also was likely to undermine investor confidence, already shaken by Russia's political turmoil, and hurt Moscow's chances of borrowing the money elsewhere.

The Central Bank said the talks with the IMF will resume in Moscow early next month.

According to the Central Bank's statement Thursday, IMF officials said key program targets were being met in monetary and credit policy and on the budget deficit, allowing inflation to be kept stable.

But there were differences over a package of measures aimed at increasing revenues and plans to impose quotas on imports of alcoholic beverages, among other issues, it said.

Fund officials in Moscow were not immediately available for comment. But the fund had indicated concern in recent weeks that the government's draconian spending cuts, made to meet deficit targets, are unsustainable.

Had agreement been reached, the fund would likely have released the monthly tranche in early November. Now, the money isn't likely to arrive until late next month at the earliest. (AP)

Dollar Reaches New 33-Month High vs. Yen, Drops vs. Rallying Pound

NEW YORK — The dollar hit a new 33-month high against the yen Friday, helped by signs that Japanese interest rates will remain weak and Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin's assertion that a strong U.S. currency is desirable.

But the dollar ended sharply lower against the British pound, which strengthened on unexpectedly healthy economic data in Britain. The pound's rally indirectly undermined demand for the dollar and left it only marginally higher against most other key currencies.

"We had a mixed bag today," said Marc Chandler, a vice president at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell in New York. "Asia bid the dollar up, and the U.S. sold the dollar off."

In late New York trading the dollar cost 113.31 yen, up from 112.87 yen Thursday. Earlier in European dealings the dollar climbed as high as 113.44 yen, the strongest since early January 1994. The British pound cost dlrs 1.5973, up from dlrs 1.5909.

The dollar snapped a five-day losing streak against the mark, finishing at 1.5210, up from 1.5170 Thursday, after a choppy day influenced by conflicting statements from German bankers on the interest rate outlook in Germany.

Traders said the dollar drew early strength partly from senior Japanese officials who reiterated their view that the economy is still vulnerable to weakness, suggesting that Japan's record low interest rates won't change for the foreseeable future. The low rates have depressed demand for yen.

At an annual convention of Japan's Credit Unions, Bank of Japan Governor Yasuo Matshushita and Trade Minister Shunpei Tsukahara both said in prepared remarks that the recovery is only mild.

Tsukahara said in some areas the economy "lacks strength overall."

The dollar also was helped by reports that Rubin met with U.S. automakers in Washington recently and challenged their complaints that the dollar's strength vs. the yen was hurting American exports to Japan. Rubin responded that the dollar's strength is important for the U.S. economy's well-being.

The result was "a continuation of the thing we've had for quite awhile, people selling yen against everything," said John Hazelton, Chief Currency Trader at Manufacturers and Traders Trust Co. in New York.

Some traders said the dollar also may have been underpinned by former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, who told a conference in Tokyo that he thinks the current dollar-yen exchange rate is acceptable.

The pound strengthened after the British government reported a surprisingly large drop in the country's August trade deficit and stronger-than-expected economic growth in the third quarter.

Michael Malpede, a senior currency analyst at REFCO Group Inc., a Chicago brokerage, said the news reinforced "the general perception that interest rates in Britain will go higher."

The dollar initially strengthened against the mark after Bundesbank Chief Economist Otmar Issing and Bundesbank Directorate member Ernst Welteke said cuts in German interest rates can't be ruled out. Earlier in the week, Issing had said no further rate cuts in Germany should be expected. (AP)

Malaysian Farmers Find New Wealth

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Before a tiny jungle village in southern Malaysia became rich, its most notable visitor was U.S. President Lyndon Johnson, who stopped by 30 years ago and left his name behind.

Now the village known as Kampung Lyndon Baines Johnson is inundated with salesmen trying to help the 389 farmers here decide how to spend their first dlrs 125,000.

To make room for a planned industrial park, Negri Sembilan State offered the farmers a total of 500 million ringgit (dlrs 200 million) - about dlrs 500,000 each - to vacate their land about 70 kilometers (40 miles) south of Kuala Lumpur.

Farmers received the first of four payments two weeks ago, and salesmen promptly moved into claim their share of the business.

In the first week alone, Louis Teh Martin sold 100 Nissans at about dlrs 20,000 each, the dealer told the *Star* newspaper.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad urged the farmers Thursday to invest the money carefully and live off the interest.

"My advice to them is don't be in a hurry to spend," he said.

"I would not like to see them as they were, living in abject conditions and looked down upon by others just because they do not know how to manage their riches," Mahathir told reporters, Bernama news agency reported.

He said even if they put the money in savings banks at 10 percent interest, each of them would earn about 9,000 ringgit (dlrs 3,600) per month. "And that is half the salary of the prime minister," he said.

Meanwhile, police said one settler lost about 100,000 ringgit (dlrs 25,000) of his newfound wealth soon after withdrawing it from a bank. The money was stolen from his car while he was having a drink with friends. (AP)

U.S. Said Eager to Break China-WTO Impasse

TOKYO — The United States is eager to break an impasse over China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) and has been quietly working to close gaps before talks in Geneva, a former U.S. official said on Friday.

Harald Malmgren, Deputy U.S. Trade representative under former U.S. Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, said the recent appointment of lee sands as U.S. negotiator on China's WTO bid was aimed at infusing new impetus into the talks, Kyodo News Agency reported.

"This was not a decision by trade officials, this came from the top..: my impression is he (U.S. President Bill Clinton) says 'Let's move things ahead', " Malmgren said.

Malmgren said Clinton had decided to act because of confidence that he would win next month's presidential election and because momentum within China for more free-market reforms to meet WTO requirements was diminishing.

"He hasn't been clear in public...and the President will, of course, not say anything before the election," Kyodo quoted Malmgren as saying, pointing to strong opposition from labor unions, human rights advocates and environmentalists against a speedy admission of china into the global trade body.

"(The office of) the U.S. trade representative has in the last three weeks engaged the Chinese side intensively so there's movement, it's just not publicised," Malmgren said.

Sands had talks with Chinese Vice Trade Minister Long Yongtu in Beijing earlier this week, Kyodo said.

Malmgren predicted that the next 12 months would bring major progress on the issue. He was in Tokyo to attend informal discussions on China's entry into the World Trade Body.

Official talks on the issue are set for early November in Geneva, where the World Trade Body is headquartered.

U.S. and Chinese officials have been at odds for months over terms for China's WTO entry. Beijing has been seeking admission under more lenient standards set for developing nations, while Washington wants China to meet stricter standards that would take its huge economy into account.

But China's Long, in Tokyo for a seminar on China and the WTO, on Thursday painted a somewhat rosier picture of the potential for progress towards Beijing's joining the WTO.

"There used to be too much emphasis on the aspect that China needs the WTO, so the contracting parties could make any kind of request, which were sometimes not realistic and sometimes beyond the mandate of the WTO," he told Reuters.

"Now, I think the discussions have come to a more balanced view, that China's WTO membership also benefits other contracting parties and is especially important for strengthening the multilateral trade system," he said.

Long declined to comment on whether he felt Washington had altered its attitude but said China's position had not changed.

"China has not changed its attitude toward its membership in the WTO. The problem is, if members set the threshold of conditions too high, then China cannot afford it. We have to say 'no'. That's a matter of principle," he said.

Some Chinese officials worry that opening the market too quickly would do too much damage to China's loss-making state firms and protected industrial sectors. (REUTER)

Vietnam Inflation Stays at 2.9 Percent

HANOI — Vietnam's year-on-year inflation rate held steady at 2.9 percent in the month to October 25, according to official figures released Saturday.

Prices have risen just 2.6 percent in the first ten months of the year, down markedly from the same period last year when prices rose 12.3 percent.

After declining for several months, prices were up just 0.1 percent in October over September, according to the General Department of Statistics.

But food prices, expected to rise because of serious flooding in the Mekong Delta, dropped by 0.1 percent in the past month.

Inflation is at its lowest level in Vietnam since the country launched its economic reforms in the mid-1980s, kicking off several years of hyperinflation before prices stabilised in the early 1990s.

Fuels have been the only major commodity to see double digit inflation this year, up 13.5 percent in the past 12 months months on the back of several tax increases.

Construction material — which led a surge in inflation last year when the country was hit by severe shortages of cement and steel — have declined 2.4 percent over the past year as stockpiles have mounted.

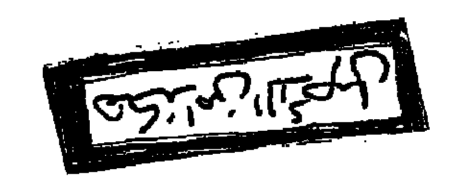
The slump in inflation has brought fears of an economic slowdown although the economy is projected to grow more than nine percent this year. Industrial output growth has slipped this year over last and construction is down.

Ho Chi Minh City, which has seen its economy grow at around 15 percent annually in the past two years, had the highest inflation rate in the country at 6.o percent over the past 12 months.

Inflation in Hanoi was less than half that amount at 3.1 percent for the year-on-year rate.

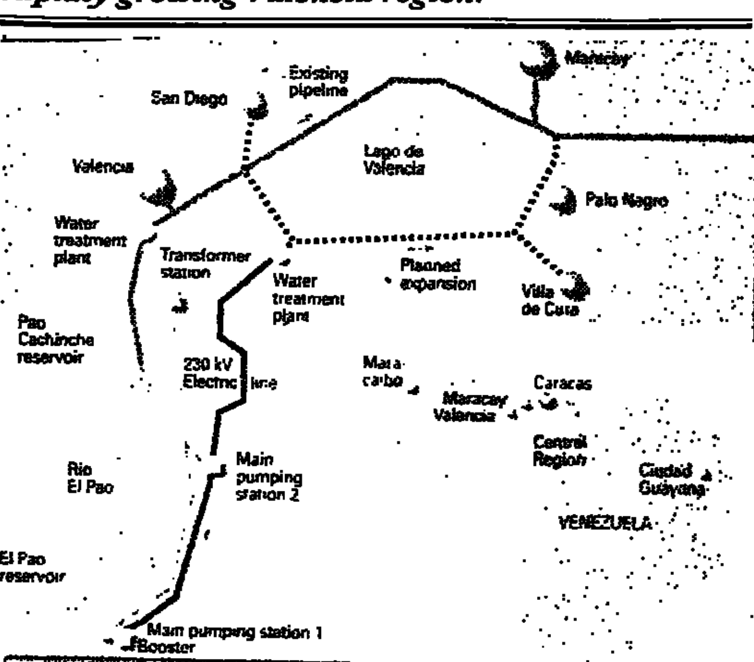
Inflation in Vietnam has fallen from 67 percent in 1991 to 17.5 percent in 1992, 5.2 percent in 1993, 14.4 percent in 1994 and 12.7 percent last year. Gross domestic product growth was at 9.3 percent in the first half of the year.

Vietnam releases its inflation figures around the 25th of the month rather than waiting until the month is over before revealing price rises. (AFP)



Promise in the Pipeline

Over 300 million people around the world suffer from an acute shortage of drinking water. A case in point is central Venezuela. There a 73 km pipeline – much of it running uphill – was built to supply the rapidly growing Valencia region.



A 73 km pipeline brings drinking water to three million people in the central region of Venezuela from the La Balsa reservoir.

Three million people – about 15% of Venenzuela's total population – live in the country's central region. For years the region has suffered from a shortage of drinking water because nearby Lake Valencia is badly polluted as a result of waste discharged from local industries. Since the region had also exhausted its underground water resources, a 40 km pipeline to the Pao Cahinche reservoir was built in the 1970s. However, as a result of surging economic growth, by the early 1980s this pipeline was no longer able to satisfy the needs of the provincial capital of Valencia and its surrounding districts.

Tapping a New Source

In 1984, a project to pipe in water from the La Balsa reservoir was proposed. Financed by the Interamerican Development Bank and built by Siemens and Sulzer Pumps Ltd. of Winterthur, Switzerland, the 73 km pipeline recently entered service. Siemens provided the electrical equipment while Sulzer supplied the pumps.

Since the pipeline crosses the Centro Occidental, a range of mountains with a maximum altitude of 750 meters, two pumping stations had to be built. From the reservoir itself the water is pumped by a booster station through the initial section of pipeline, and from there to the second main station 32 km away. After that, the water travels 41 km to a treatment plan situated on a plain 665 meters above sea level. Gravity there carries the water to the communities around Lake Valencia (Figure 1). The pipeline is now supplying nearly 3 million people with around 150 liters of water each day.

The Project's Nuts and Bolts

Each of the two identical pumping stations (Figure 2 below) houses seven high-pressure Sulzer pumps driven by 10-MW synchronous electric motors. The booster station uses centrifugal pumps driven by low-speed 1.55-MW motors.

The power equipment supplied by Siemens on a turnkey basis comprised all the electrical apparatus for the two main pumping stations and the booster station. The order included the supply, installation and commissioning of overhead power lines in a ring-main configuration, infeed and distribution on HV, MV and LV levels, pump drive motors, SIMATIC automatic control systems, and communication systems linking the pumping stations.

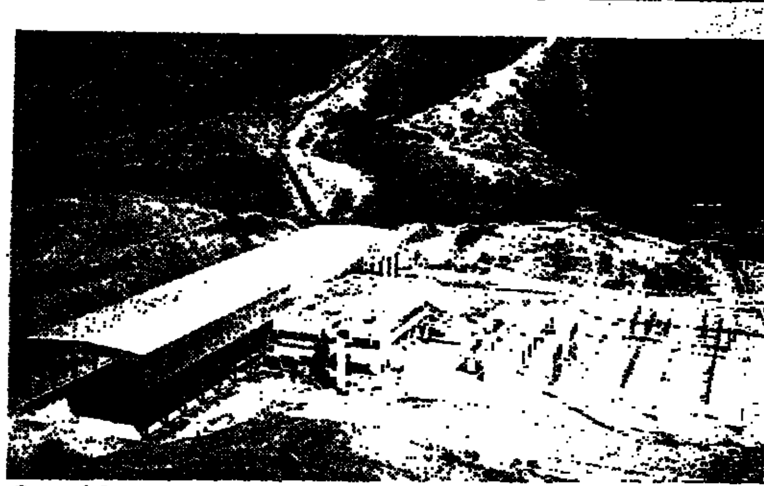
The power supply system comprises two redundant 230-kV overhead power lines and a nearby transformer substation. The booster station at the La Balsa reservoir takes its power supply from the main pumping station. The two main pumping stations also incorporate 230/23.8 kV transformer substations. In order to minimize the voltage dip on the main grid when the drives are started, the pumps are started against closed valves. Only when a prescribed value of current is reached are the motors switched over to the full rated voltage of 13.8 kV. Once the motors have reached nominal speed, the valves are opened slowly by a SIMATIC programmable control system. The operators can follow the procedure from intermediate messages and status displays presented on a control panel.

Onward to Caracas

Thanks to the smooth way in which this project was completed, Siemens was awarded another contract in June, 1995 to act as a consortium leader on a project involving the refurbishment of sections of the drinking water supply system in the Venezuelan capital of Caracas.

(Siemens Review)





One of the main pumping stations (below) and part of the pipeline. On its journey from the reservoir to the water treatment plant, water has to cross the 750 meter high Centro Occidental mountain range. Fig.2



Duchess of York Drastically Cuts Hotel Spendings

LONDON -- A vacationing Duchess of York spent the night in a humble bed and breakfast with her two daughters, leaving the press to wonder recently whether her financial woes were responsible for this sudden change in tastes.

Sarah Ferguson and Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie spent Thursday night in a Waldley (central England) B and B for £23 a person ($40) – far less than the duchess is used to spending in luxurious ski and seaside resorts.

The press was quick to point out that Buckingham Palace last January warned the duchess to curb her spending. In an unusual move, the palace announced that the queen, after "generously providing for her needs for many years," would no longer cover the duchess' debts which are estimated at £5 million ($8 million).

On Friday morning, paparazzi mobbed the elegant, 18th century building. The duchess appeared relaxed and declared "We had a very good meal and a great time. It's a great place to stay and very comfortable."

She did not make any allusions to money.

She then took her daughters to a nearby attraction park. The price tag there was exactly £69.50 ($110), according to the park's officials.

In another AFP report from Berlin, Prince Philip, the husband of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, has stepped down as president of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), a position he has held for 15 years.

During his closing speech to a 100-strong WWF General Assembly in Berlin, he handed over to the current Vice President Syed Babar Ali, a Pakistani.

The WWF is the world's largest private organization for the protection of the environment and has 4.7 million members and donors. Last year it collected $270 million in donations.

In his speech, Prince Philip also urged consumers only to buy products bearing labels to show they were environmentally friendly.

The WWF has proposed such a labelling system be designed for the fish industry to show that fish products have been caught without harming other marine and bird life which often perish in trawlers' nets.

The Dutch-British group Unilever, one of the major producers of frozen fish products, has agreed only to buy fish from WWF-approved fishermen. (AFP)

Juppe Puts Life Online

PARIS – French Prime Minister Alain Juppe, once nicknamed Amstrad for his computer-like intellectual capacities, has linked himself up to the ether with a personal site on the World Wide Web.

In the latest bid to make contact with French public none too keen on him, he personally plugged himself into the global electronic network on the Matignon Web site recently.

Alongside information on the workings of the French government, the site includes a personal file section, which when clicked shows a relaxed Juppe enjoying himself in a range of informal settings

It is "a means to talk directly with the French people, to avoid mediation," said the French premier presenting the Matignon uplink, which has cost 600,000 francs ($115,000) to set up.

The site, in four languages – French, English, German and Spanish – is available to Net browsers at the Web address http://www.premier-ministre.gouv.fr).

Polls indicate that Juppe could soon hit the lowest popularity rating for a French premier since the start of the Fifth Republic in 1958. Another survey put France third from bottom in Europe in subscriptions to the Internet.

(AFP)

Seven Held for 1.5 Million Free Calls in India

NEW DELHI – Indian detectives have arrested seven men for making 1.5 million free calls on telephone lines they had redirected in the western city of Bangalore, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said recently.

The CBI did not name the suspects but said the seven men diverted two lines from a local telephone exchange in Bangalore and made at least 1.5 million free calls between July 10 and August 21.

Most of the calls were long-distance and have been traced to numbers in Japan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and in countries in the Far East, CBI sources said, but did not specify the date of the arrest.

The diversion and misuse of the two telephone lines has resulted in a loss of almost two million rupees ($57,000) to the Bangalore Exchange, the detectives said in New Delhi.

"These people must have been allowing people to call long-distance at low rates because for them the stolen connections were absolutely free," a CBI source said of the record number of calls made within a month's span.

Two of the suspects have been identified as telephone department workers in Bangalore, hub of India's communications, electronics and aerospace industry. (AFP)

Dying Child's Testimony Convicts Doctor

ROENNE, Denmark – A jealous Danish paediatric surgeon was sentenced to life imprisonment recently for setting light to the house of a love rival, killing her and her two children, judicial sources said.

Elisabeth Waever, 42, who was having a relationship with a married colleague, decided in August 1995 to get rid of her rival, 42-year-old nurse Birgit Holm Hansen by torching her home.

Hansen and her two children, Soeren, aged seven, and four-year-old Henrik, died as a result of the blaze.

Waever denied the charges to the court on the Baltic island of Bornholm, admitting only to a "fierce altercation" with Hansen.

But the testimony of one of the children – who survived in hospital for a month before succumbing to terrible burns -- pointed the finger at the arsonist.

An autopsy showed that Hansen had been given morphine before the fire, believed to have been administered by Waever.

(AFP)

Danish Royal Couple Nearly Drowned on Honeymoon

COPENHAGEN -- Queen Margrethe of Denmark and her husband Prince Henrik nearly drowned while on their honeymoon in Turkey 29 years ago, the prince disclosed in an excerpt from a new book published here recently.

"Suddenly there was a very strong current, my wife panicked and I was very nervous too," the prince recalled in an excerpt in the mass-circulation newspaper *Extra Bladet*.

The portrait of the royal couple – young, in love and in sudden danger – contrasts with the image of Prince Henrik as a stern, intimidating father in a recent book quoting one of his two sons, 28-year old Frederik.

Princess Margrethe as she was then married Henrik on June 10, 1967.

In the book, written by Vigui Desplaces and scheduled for release on November 7 in Denmark and in France, the French-born prince recalls that the couple were spending their honeymoon on a deserted beach when a swim nearly turned into a drama.

After recounting how they managed to swim ashore after a long struggle, the prince added that he had asked himself "can one die on a beautiful morning on a wonderful beach in the middle of one's honeymoon and with so much love in one's heart?" the answer had been "No."

The book is dedicated to Frederik and his 27-year-old brother Joachim.

In his account of their childhood, Frederik said the brothers "were afraid every time we heard our father's footsteps echoing in the hallway.".

He also reproached his parents for spending too little time with their children, but Prince Henrik said he had "played with them in the apartment, gone to the zoo with them, built sand castles, played with the electric train and gone on bike rides."

According to Prince Henrik, the children did not complain that their father was too authoritarian, but said that he was firm in his education methods.

"A child must obey orders," he stated. (AFP)

Smile As You Serve, President Tells Germans

BERLIN – Head of state Roman Herzog exhorted his compatriots to be more friendly when dealing with customers, identifying a certain German coldness or lack of sense of service.

"We are indeed a strange people. We deal happily with machines but we lose all smile when it's a matter of serving human beings," Herzog told a forum on the service sector in Berlin.

This is a key sector if one wants to cut the number of unemployed by half by 2000, the president said in an allusion to a target agreed by German government, trade union and business leaders.

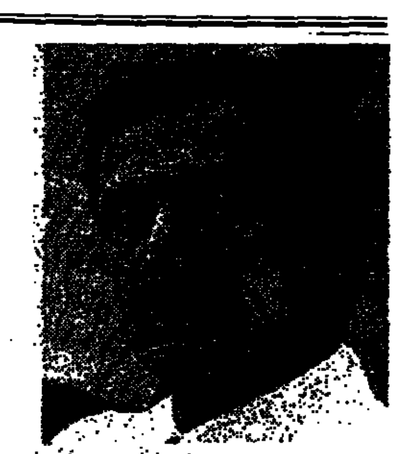
The service sector has created 6.2 million jobs in Western Germany since 1970, more than compensating for the loss of 2.8 million in agriculture and 1.5 in agriculture, said Gerhard Fels, head of the Institute of German Economy. (AFP)



1996 Nobel Prize Winners

Two Britons, a Swiss, an Australian and 6 Americans win this year's $1.12 million prizes in science and economics.


Doherty


Zinkernagel

1- Physiology

For decades, the best minds in immunology had failed to solve this riddle: Why did the immune system evolve to reject something - an organ transplant - that did not become common until the 20th century?

In the 1970s a couple of researchers, working in relative isolation in Australia, hit on the answer. Australian Peter Doherty, who trained as a veterinary surgeon, and Dr. Rolf Zinkernagel, a Swiss specialist in tropical diseases, figured out that the rejection response was actually a by product of the body's basic virus-defense system.

Doherty and Zinkernagel showed that the white blood cells of the immune system look for changes in a key marker called the self protein, which identifies cells as belonging to one's own body. Any alterations in this protein - such as those that occur when a cell is invaded by a virus - tag the cell for destruction.

Doherty and Zinkernagel's research, which won this year's Physiology or Medicine Nobel, could lead to new kinds of vaccines against *multiple sclerosis* (M.S.), cancer and other auto-immune disorders.

2- Physics

Cornell university researchers David Lee, Robert Richardson and Douglas Osheroff made their Nobel-winning discovery in 1972.

They were working with helium-3, a rare isotope of the common gas, looking for a "phase transition," analogous to the changes in water when it turns from vapor to liquid and from liquid to ice. They had cooled a sample to within two one-thousanths of degree of absolute zero (-273.15 degree Centigrade), the temperature at which atomic motion ceases.



As they were charting the changing pressure, the Nobel citation says, "it was Osheroff's vigilant eye that noticed small extra jumps in the curve."

Those jumps, it turned out, represented the change of helium-3 into a superfluid, a liquid with no viscosity that can climb up and over the walls of its container and exhibits other bizarre quantum behavior ordinarily observed only in subatomic particles.

Osheroff

The discovery may turn out to have repercussions on a far grander scale. Subsequent experiments with superfluid helium-3 have lent support to the theory that the creation of hypothetical structures called cosmic strings a fraction of a second after the Big Bang led eventually to the formation of the galaxies.

3- Chemistry

Skeptical eyebrows were raised in 1985 when three chemists reported that they had stumbled onto a new form of molecular carbon that they believed, but could not prove, had the shape of a football (soccer) ball.

Kroto





Nobody is skeptical anymore. Not only has their theory been confirmed, but it has also blossomed into a thriving branch of research.

And last week that trio of chemists — Harold Kroto from Britain's University of Sussex, and Robert Curl and Richard Smalley from Rice University in Houston — were rewarded for their work with the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

They made their serendipitous discovery by zapping graphite with a laser beam and mixing the resulting carbon vapor with a stream of helium. When they examined the crystallized residue, they found molecules made of 60 carbon atoms. Guessing (correctly) that these structures resembled Buckminster Fuller's geodesic domes, they named them "buckminster-fullerenes" — "buckyballs" for short.



Smalley

Today scientists manufacture bucky-balls by the pound and in a variety of sizes and shapes, from flat sheets to long filaments. Some can hold atoms of other elements in their hollow interiors; others can conduct electricity. Given the versatility of buckyballs, scientists predict that they will someday be used for, among other things, drug-delivery systems, superfine electrical wires and hairlike tubes of unprecedented tensile strength.

(Courtesy TIME magazine Oct. 21, 96)

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Thought

The Messenger of Allah (P) said: My brother Jesus (P) passed a city [whose inhabitants] had yellow faces and blue eyes [A blue tinge to the eyes was a sign of blindness (cataracts)- Quran 20:102]. They cried out to him and complained of their illness, he said: It's treatment is with you. When you eat meat, you cook it without washing it. Nothing leaves this world without having an impurity. Then they washed their meat and their illness went away.

PRAYER

Noon	11:48
Evening	17:34
Dawn (tomorrow)	4:50
Sunrise (tomorrow)	6:23

TODAY IN HISTORY

1651 - Limerick, Ireland, surrenders to British after lengthy siege.

1676 - Peace of Zurawna between Poland and Turkey.

1789 - French attempt to invade Ireland fails.

1806 - France's Napoleon Bonaparte occupies Berlin.

1807 - Spain and France agree to conquer Portugal.

1870 - French troops surrender Metz, France, to Prussians.

1951 - Egyptians abrogate 1936 alliance treaty with Britain and 1899 agreement over Sudan.

1966 - UN General Assembly proclaims termination of South Africa's mandate over South-West Africa.

1973 - United Nations peacekeeping force arrives in Cairo to attempt to set up lasting ceasefire between Israeli and Arab forces.

1977 - U.S. President Jimmy Carter rules out any embargo on trade with South Africa or any ban on U.S. investment in that nation to protest its racial policies.

1978 - Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin are awarded Nobel Peace Prize.

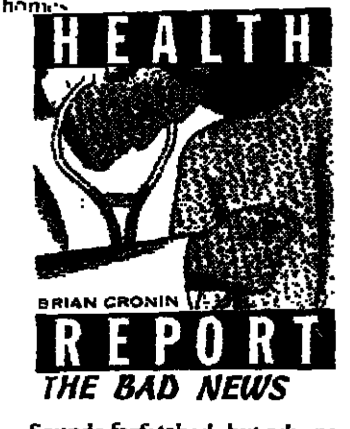
1988 - Czech authorities arrest dozens of dissidents and impose strict security on Prague.

1989 - Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announces end to ceasefire with U.S.-backed anti-

1991 - European Community condemns Yugoslav army's siege of Dubrovnik and calls on forces to abide by Oct. 18 ceasefire.

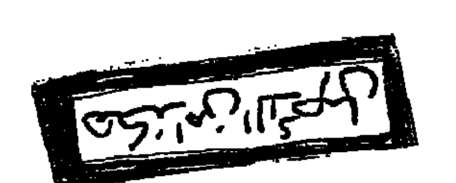
1992 - Israeli jets bomb southern Lebanon avenging the deaths of 6 Israelis, but the Israeli government resists calls to withdraw from Middle East peace talks.

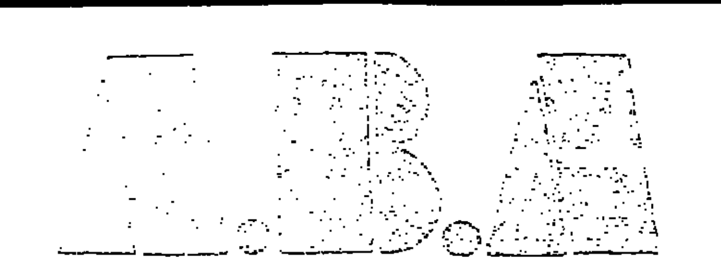
1993 - Brush fires in Southern California destroy at least 800 homes.



THE BAD NEWS

Sounds farfetched, but advanced PERIODONTAL DISEASE during pregnancy may increase a mother's risk of giving birth prematurely. The gum disease is an infection. In fighting it off, the body produces chemicals that may set off contractions.



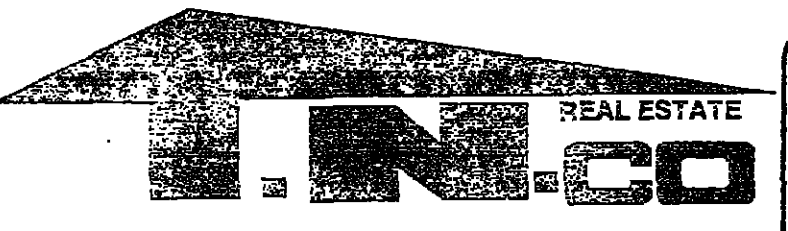


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Good Old Days

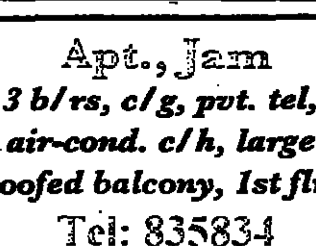
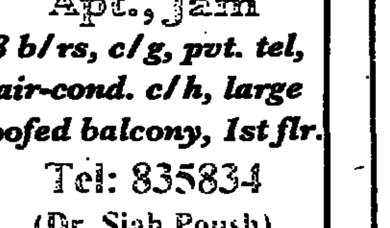
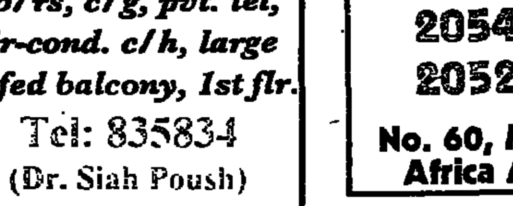
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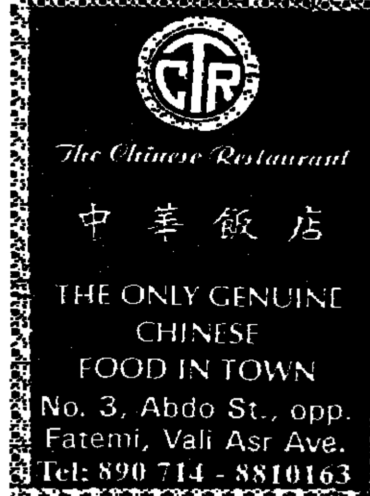
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New Belgium Row Over Political Role in Law Courts

BRUSSELS — Just days after a historic march against political meddling in the Belgian justice system, a fresh row erupted over a plan for new political appointments in the courts.

Belgian media reported the country's three large political groups — Christian-Democrats, Socialists and Liberals — have appointed six new judges to the state council, the country's constitutional court, along partisan lines,

News of the deal sparked a national outcry. It came just two days after the Belgian government vowed to end political control of the justice system.

That pledge followed an unprecedented demonstration in Brussels in which 250,000 people rallied against the judiciary's inefficient handling of a paedophile murder ring.

"*(The plan) is a slap in the face* of the people who marched against political appointments," daily *Het Laatste Nieuws* said.

Virtually all papers ran scathing editorials about the plan.

Political sources told Reuters that the parties had agreed to postpone the nominations until a better solution was found.

Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene defended the planned nominations, saying that an administrative court like the state council should represent "all viewpoints in society", but agreed the appointments should be delayed.

The spark for Sunday's march was a decision to throw magistrate Jean-Marc Connerotte off the investigation into a paedophile ring which has claimed the lives of four girls.

The Cour de Cassation, the highest Appeal Court, said that by accepting a plate of spaghetti at an evening organized by the families of the victims, Connerotte had shown unacceptable bias.

The decision hit a raw nerve with Belgians, fed up with seeing high-level corruption go unpunished while the average citizen fails to get justice. Suspicious delays in the paedophile case may have contributed to the high death toll.

Connerotte has previously been taken off other cases when he appeared to be getting too close to high-level figures.

"The Connerotte decision was just a catalyst for a widespread disgust with the whole system," said Hans Righart, political history professor at the Dutch Utrecht University.

Belgian society is run by the big political parties, whose power is not limited to Parliament and government, but can parachute their friends into all spheres of public life.

"Belgium is rife with political nominations," UCL Political Science Professor Lieven de Winter said.

In the state-controlled schools, universities and broadcasters, in the justice system and even at the top of large privately-owned companies, some form of party affiliation is a must-have for anyone who wants to get ahead.

Analysts agree that Belgian citizens — although they have supported and fed this system for decades — believe political patronage has become counter-productive and must be stopped.

"Political patronage is ingrained in our culture, and bad habits are hard to get rid of. Last Sunday 300,000 people asked just this. If politicians do not respond, the next request may be formulated in a less friendly manner," financial daily *De Financieel-Economische Tijd* said.

(Reuter)

Cuban Missile Crisis Tapes Reveal a Cautious Kennedy

BOSTON — A cautious U.S. President John F. Kennedy repeatedly resisted calls from his military advisers for an attack on Cuba during the 1962 missile crisis, according to White House recordings.

Declassified and released to the public exactly 34 years after the October 1962 confrontation, the secret 15 hours and 19 minutes of recordings give historians a fuller picture of the Kennedy White House.

The recordings include meetings in the Oval Office and cabinet room from Oct. 18-29, just after spy plane photographs revealed the former Soviet Union was installing offensive nuclear missile sites in Cuba, 90 miles (145 km) from Florida.

In an Oct. 19 meeting with the joint chiefs of staff and Defense Secretary Robert McNamara, Kennedy concluded that an air strike against Cuba would give the Soviets a "clear line" to invade Berlin.

Minutes later, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Curtis Lemay compared a proposed naval blockade with Western appeasement of Nazi Germany before the World War II.

By Oct. 23, the president decided on the blockade around Cuba to try to force the Soviets to dismantle the nuclear sites and remove all offensive weapons from the island.

"What we are doing is throwing down a card on the table in a game which we don't know the ending of," Kennedy said at the meeting.

Rare emotional outbursts in otherwise calm discussions during the tense period reveal just how close the two superpowers came to a nuclear exchange.

"My God ... I think it was very significant that we were here this morning. We passed the one contingency — an immediate, sudden, irrational (nuclear) strike (by the Soviets)," U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk said on Oct. 23, the day after Kennedy announced to the world the Soviet missile buildup.

An unidentified speaker, referring to the president's brother, U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy, said at one meeting on a possible U.S. invasion of Cuba: "Suppose we make bobby mayor of Havana?"

At another point, there was laughter in the cabinet room when Kennedy speculated the United States would stop a Soviet ship headed for Cuba, tow it to a U.S. port for inspection before discovering it only contained baby food.

The Cuban missile crisis was defused on Oct. 28 when Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev agreed to remove nuclear weapons from Cuba.

For national security reasons, 27 minutes of the recordings, released by the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, were deleted of references to intelligence sources and methods, said library foreign policy architect Stephanie Fawcett.

The tapes were likely installed for Kennedy's memoirs and were activated by hidden switches at his desk in the Oval Office and at his chair in the cabinet room, she said.

The crude recordings are sometimes indecipherable, catching squeaking chairs, pipes being banged on ashtrays, and other outside noises. They were probably done with only the president's knowledge, Fawcett said.

"The chances are there are no blockbuster (revelations), considering it's been 34 years, but what you will get is the president in action," Fawcett told reporters at the library. "You are literally a fly on the wall."

More than 200 hours of Kennedy White House recordings from July 1962 to just weeks before he was assassinated in November 1963 were expected to be declassified over the next five years under a 1995 federal law requiring swift release of all sensitive materials, Fawcett said.

(Reuter)

Lower-Caste Indian Leader Roughs Up Journalists

NEW DELHI — The founder of an Indian party which advocates the cause of Hindu "untouchables" has been charged with beating up and injuring several journalists at his New Delhi home, newspapers said.

Kanshi Ram, leader of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP, Majority People's Party) launched an attack on photographers and journalists while they were staking out his residence in central Delhi, witnesses said.

A New Delhi police spokesman said a case had been registered against Ram, his supporters and some of his security guards for "rioting and voluntarily causing hurt."

Ram's action came shortly after a television team spotted him with a senior leader of the Hindu Nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party), fueling speculation that the archfoes were joining hands to take power in Uttar Pradesh, a politically sensitive Indian state.

Anil Sharma, a photographer with the *Pioneer* newspaper, who was one of several people roughed up, said the trouble started when Ram emerged from his house to find journalists waiting for his protege Mayawati.

Mayawati, a former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh which has provided eight of India's 11 prime ministers, is in the political limelight because of her insistence on heading the provincial government.

Federal rule has been imposed in Uttar Pradesh after recent state elections resulted in a hung assembly and efforts to put together an alliance failed.

Sharma said Ram, a former bureaucrat, went on the rampage almost immediately.

"He asked us rudely, 'Why have you come?' Then without waiting for us to answer he instructed his security men: 'Beat the living daylights out of them, shoot them.'

"He then himself started hitting the journalists. He slapped a television reporter and a woman photographer ... Mayawati was at his side watching silently," Sharma said.

Another witness said a television photographer was hospitalized with broken ribs while three women journalists were seriously injured in the 15-minute fracas.

The BJP, which had hoped to dominate recent state elections and pressure Deve Gowda's New Delhi government to call new general elections, failed to gain an outright majority in Uttar Pradesh winning 174 of the 245 seats.

(AFP)

Russian Officials Off to Chechnya

MOSCOW — Russian government officials were due to leave Saturday for Chechnya to take up their seats on the Parity Commission which will oversee the rebuilding of the war-ravaged Caucasus Republic, ITAR-TASS said.

The Parity Commission was set up under an agreement signed on October 3 by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Chechen separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev.

The 17-member Russian delegation most of whose members have the rank of deputy minister, is led by the cochairman of the Parity Commission, Valentin Vlassov. The delegation would remain in Grozny through the transition period leading to new elections, ITAR-TASS said.

The main task of the commission will be to supervise the use of funds allocated to finance reconstruction in Chechnya and it will also help set up new power structures.

ITAR-TASS did not say when the Russian officials would meet their Chechen partners.

In another development, the new Secretary of the Russian Security Council, Ivan Rybkin said on NTV television that he planned to "leave for Chechnya in the next few days, even hours".

Rybkin who replaced General Alexander Lebed on October 19 after Lebed was sacked by President Boris Yeltsin, did not say if he would leave with the Russian delegation.

Russian analysts said Rybkin's main task would be to negotiate a compromise with the Chechen nationalists, on Moscow's controversial decision to leave two Russian troop brigades in Chechnya after other forces are pulled out.

A senior Russian official said that the decision to keep the troops in Chechnya was irrevocable, while the separatists insist on a total withdrawal of all Russian soldiers.

(AFP)

Pacific Islanders Lose Seafaring Skills

WALU BAY, Fiji -- A thousand years before the birth of Christ, while the mariners of the ancient world were still frightened of falling off the earth's edge, Pacific islanders were sailing huge canoes on epic ocean voyages.

Guided only by the stars, these master seafarers sailed across vast expanses of uncharted ocean, waging war, doing business and building a Pacific civilization.

Now, hundreds of their descendants are dying each year because they have lost their navigational and sailing skills.

Guided only by the stars, these master seafarers sailed across vast expanses of uncharted ocean, waging war, doing business and building a Pacific civilization.

Today, islanders chase fish over the horizon, lose sight of their atoll and can't find their way home, according to the South Pacific Commission, which assists the region's 22 island nations in social, economic and cultural research and training.

An average of 360 boats go missing each year and the crews of at least 60 are never seen again, says the commission, which this year produced a "safety at sea" radio and video campaign broadcast throughout the South Pacific.

"On average the commission found (South Pacific) officials working in the search and rescue operations received one distress call every day," a commission official said. South Pacific island nations spend U.S.$5 million a year on search and rescue operations.

Only about five percent of Pacific islanders go to sea in anything more than a small dinghy, powered by a poorly maintained outboard engine, says the commission.

This stands in stark contrast to the sturdy, ocean-going canoes in which Polynesians and Micronesians migrated across the South Pacific from Southeast Asia.

The traditional Fijian drua, a double hulled canoe, measured almost 40 meters (130 feet) long with steering oars 10 meters (35 feet) in length. It needed 50 to 100 men to control and could take 300 passengers.

To sustain crew and passengers on long voyages pigs were carried and cooked on board. When cattle were introduced to Fiji by Europeans, some large canoes carried up to 12 head of cattle.

The log books of early European explorers in the South Pacific, like Britain's Captain James Cook, the first European to reach Australia, mention entire fleets of speedy canoes.

Construction of a drua took from three to seven years and was a bloody affair, drenched in the cannibalistic rituals that were part of Fijian culture until the latter half of the 1800s.

To appease the gods, canoes were "painted" with human blood using human body parts as paint brushes, men were killed when the mast was set, and the finished canoes were rolled into the sea over rows of dead bodies.

These canoes were often used for war and when they returned from a raid enemy children were often hung from the sails as victory banners, usually dying as a result of being bashed against the masts.

Kate Vusoniwailala, director of the Fiji Museum in Suva, says the drua was such an efficient vessel that many other island nations adopted it, leading to the development of a complex, far-flung trading system linking Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and Micronesia.

The last big drua was built in 1913 by Fijians who still knew the 18th and 19th-century canoe-building skills.

But today, only a few elderly Fijians on the remote Lau group of islands still have these skills, says Vusoniwailala.

The Westernization of the South Pacific has caused generations of fishermen and sailors to discard their traditional canoes in favor of modern technology.

"There is no market for these canoes so nobody builds them," Vusoniwailala told Reuters. "Carvers are now using their skills elsewhere, carving replicas of canoes for tourists.

"Inheritance here is interpreted as land...it does not translate into other traditional skills," she says. "We do not have a cultural policy in Fiji and this is a setback.

"If something is not done fairly soon this history will be lost. When the Western world thought the world was flat, Polynesians ventured out over the horizon -- this is incredible history. We must protect this for future generations."

"I think there are a lot of people in the community with a lot of traditional knowledge...but they are an older generation and it is up to us to protect this knowledge before they die.

"If something is not done fairly soon this history will be lost. When the Western world thought the world was flat, Polynesians ventured out over the horizon -- this is incredible history. We must protect this for future generations."

Steps are being taken to preserve these skills. Many South Pacific nations have formed voyaging societies that stage ocean voyages aimed not only at preserving canoe-building knowledge, but also traditional navigation by the stars.

The Cook Islands sailed a traditional vaka canoe to Tahiti last September as part of an international flotilla protesting French nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

The U.S. State of Hawaii has numerous "voyaging canoes", American Samoa is building a 19-meter (64-foot) canoe, and other island nations are planning to build their own by the year 2000.

A group of Pacific islanders is trying to organize a fleet of traditional canoes to sail to New Zealand in 2000 to celebrate the new millennium.

The fleet hopes to witness the first sunrise of the new century at Gisborne on New Zealand's North Island and travel to Mount Hikurangi, regarded by New Zealand's Maori people as the place where their ancestors landed in their great voyage of migration.

"This project has the potential to be the largest fleet and gathering of our Polynesian family since the great migration of our people to Aotearoa (New Zealand), which was dated conservatively around 1350 AD," says Te Aturangi Nepia Clamp, a Maori who is coordinating the 2000 canoe project. (Reuter)

'Killer Algae' Contaminating Sea Floor

MARSEILLE, France -- The deadly algae caulerpa taxifolia are gaining ground along the Mediterranean Sea floor from Spain to Croatia, scientists said Thursday.

Worst hit by the algae, which threaten marine fauna, is the area off the French Mediterranean coast east of Marseille, where 2,000 hectares (5,000 acres) are contaminated, an increase of 500 hectares since the start of the year.

At a press conference unveiling a new two-year, three million franc ($600,000) program to control the spread of the algae, Francisco Cinelli of the University of Pisa said the killer weed was also expanding rapidly off Italy's northwest coast, where up to 1,500 hectares are affected.

The algae, introduced to the Mediterranean accidentally in 1984, have also been seen around Spain's Balearic Islands and in Croatia just across from Venice, Italy in the Adriatic Sea.

The killer marine plant, whose economic consequences are being felt by small fishermen and the tourist industry in the affected areas, was first observed in 1984 near Monaco's oceanographic museum.

The algae are related to a much smaller and less cold-resistant tropical species, and are apparently the result of genetic mutation brought about by ultraviolet lights used in aquariums.

(AFP)

Vatican Demands West Help End World Hunger

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican, putting itself at odds with the United States ahead of a major UN conference, said that food was a fundamental human right and criticized embargoes against Cuba and Iraq.

The position was staked out in a complex 80-page document, "World Hunger, a Challenge for All, Development in Solidarity," written by the holy see's humanitarian arm, Cor Unum.

The opening words of the document, released ahead of next month's world food summit in Rome, said the "right to food" was a fundamental principle enshrined in the UN's 1948 universal declaration of human rights.

But in preparatory meetings for the summit, organized by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, some advanced countries, including the United States, opposed the phrase "right to food" in the draft plan of action for the meeting.

Diplomats say those countries want the Rome plan of action to use less specific phrasing, such as a reference to food as part of "sufficient means for an adequate standard of living".

Rich countries fear that enshrining food as a "right" could lead to lawsuits demanding aid or special trade provisions.

Preparations for the November 13-17 summit, which Pope John Paul will open, have been dogged by criticism by aid charities that proposed measures are too weak.

They say the summit risks being turned into a bland package of platitudes by wealthier countries determined to avoid commitments that might cost them money.

The UN says some 800 million people, or a seventh of the world's population, regularly go hungry and that the summit will produce an effective action plan to eradicate global hunger.

The Vatican, which has clashed with the United States over issues such as abortion, population and women at past UN conferences, called on the West to help reform the world economy although without neglecting their own poor.

"Millions of people are still marked by the ravages of hunger and malnutrition or the consequences of food insecurity. Is this due to lack of food? Not at all," the document said.

"It is generally acknowledged that the resources of the planet, taken as a whole, are sufficient to feed every one living on it."

Specifically mentioning Cuba and Iraq — both subjects of U.S.-backed trade sanctions, — the document also said embargoes imposed for political reasons always hurt civilians most.

But it added that leaders of countries hit by embargoes sometimes kept their own people down for political reasons.

"Indeed, it is the people themselves who are the first to fall victim to such acts of force. This is why the costs, in humanitarian terms, of such decisions must be carefully taken into account," it said.

The West should be more compassionate by promoting credit programs, "substantially" reducing Third World debt and avoiding protectionist policies that hurt farmers in the Third World.

Emergency food aid must remain a temporary solution to crises and not be used as a political tool or trade weapon.

The document said many modern famines were "man-made" disasters resulting from wars and political upheavals such as those in Ethiopia, Cambodia and Rwanda. "At a time when humanity is better equipped than ever before to deal with hunger, such situations are a veritable dishonor to humanity," it said. *(Reuter)*

U.S. Poor Fear Falling Down Without Federal Safety Net



CAMDEN, New Jersey — Tonwa Rouse says she has tried everything during her eight-month quest to find work — interviews, classified ads, training. But they are all in vain.

Like most disadvantaged people in Camden, New Jersey, this divorced, 26-year-old mother of two says she is concerned about the nation's new welfare law that gives people like her no more than two years to land a job.

"Of course I'd rather get a job right away," said Rouse, who quit working to give birth to a daughter. "But I've been trying everything, and I haven't found a decent job that can pay for diapers and food for both my kids."

If Rouse has not landed that job on October 1, 1998, she and everyone else in her shoes will be no longer eligible for federal government welfare benefits.

Mostly inspired by the Republican majority that has ruled Congress for the last two years, this cut-off provision is at the heart of the "welfare reform" package signed by Democratic President Bill Clinton in August.

Ironically, the law does away with many federal aid programs that were put in place during the 1930s by another Democratic President, Franklin Roosevelt.

The law relieves the federal government of responsibility for some 75 social programs that constitute "welfare". Since October 1, states are overseeing their own programs that, collectively, will touch the lives of some 26 million Americans.

The goal now is to find work for as many people who depend on these benefits as possible — no small task in the nation's blighted cities.

Camden, which faces Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, across the Delaware River, is a desperately poor community with a majority black and Hispanic population. Of the county's 500,000 residents, more than 52,000 receive federal food stamps to help them buy essentials.

Clement Carney, deputy director of the Camden county board of social services, says he shares this concern.

"It's much better for people to be self-sufficient and earn their incomes from employment than from welfare — I have no problem with that idea," he said. "But before achieving the noble goal of everybody being self-sufficient, we must give to the neediest a basic amount of money to live on to help them to the transition."

Right now, many poor people are doing without this basic amount.

In Camden county, a single woman with one child is eligible for $322 per month. The average monthly rent for an one-bedroom apartment in Camden is about $400 per month.

Bedzaida Mendez, director of a local food bank that serves some 75,000 meals each month, said most welfare recipients seeking to join the workforce are totally unprepared.

"Most of the jobs that are being created for people with high technical skills," she said. "Those without technical skills will only get low-paid or even unpaid jobs. If they don't accept these jobs, they will be pushed out of welfare and the vicious circle of poverty will be perpetuated."

Despite these misgivings, frustration with the old welfare system seems to have convinced large numbers of the voting public that welfare reform is a tough but necessary step — even among Democrats.

"We Democrats came to the idea that if we want to help impoverished folks, we have to move from something else than just pouring grants on them," said Wayne Bryant, a democratic state senator from New Jersey.

"There are some American values you can only get from working." *(AFP)*

Specter of Breakup Back to Haunt Zaire 36 Years After Katanga

KINSHASA — An escalating ethnic rebellion in eastern Zaire has revived fears among seasoned politicians here that the country might yet again be on the brink of disintegration 36 years after Katanga's failed bid for independence.

A spokesman for the "Banyamulenge" — ethnic Tutsis originally from Rwanda who have lived for decades in eastern Zaire — said here that Tutsi rebels had been joined by "other Zairean tribes and by opposition militants".

He said the plan was to conquer South Kivu Province and join up with other rebels in North Kivu.

Muller Ruhimbika, who claimed here to speak for the hitherto unknown Banyamulenge Party People's Democratic Alliance (ADP) spoke of "an alliance with Zairean opposition parties".

He cited three "parties opposed to Marshal Mobutu" though the groups are totally unknown here.

He named them as the "Popular Revolution Party (PRP), the National Resistance Council for Democracy (CNRD) and the Revolutionary Movement for the Liberation of the Congo. None of the parties' leaders were named.

Zaire presently has no fewer than 450 political parties but even the most radical, whether pro or anti-Mobutu, have never exploited ethnic or tribal sentiments to further their cause.

But though Ruhimbika's remarks were met with caution and even dismissed by some critics as wishful thinking or political opportunism, they do reflect deeply-held awareness here that the potential for separatism is enormous in a country made up of more than 200 ethnic groups and 400 tribes speaking more than 500 dialects.

"Geographical", hence ethnic considerations are of prime importance in Zaire when appointing government members or the managers of state enterprises.

Portfolios and the lucrative top managerial jobs are shared both according to the "political family" — opposition or pro-Mobutu — and according to the candidates' home provinces.

The Baluba and Lulua predominate in the central Kasai region, the Lunda in Bandundu and Shaba in the southwest, the Baswahili in Shaba, Kivu and upper Zaire and the Bangala in Equator region.

Each of the large ethnic groups is split into tribes who regularly engage in bloody score-settling in disputes involving land, pastures or family affairs.

In some regions of Zaire, villagers only 50 kilometers (35 miles) apart speak different dialects and cannot communicate.

In this context, it is not hard to understand the separatism and rebellions which marred the early years of the republic after its independence from Belgium in 1960.

Moise Tshombe led an abortive independence drive by the mineral rich Province of Katanga where a second secessionist rebellion occurred in 1978.



In 1964 and 1965, the country

(Contd on Pg. 15)

Africa and Boutros Deserve Second Term

UNITED NATIONS — Organization of African Unity chairman Paul Biya called for an African to lead the United Nations for five more years, in a speech interpreted here as voicing strong support for Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

In a widely anticipated address to the 185-nation UN General Assembly, Biya, the Cameroon president, noted that African leaders at their last summit in Yaounde in July "reconfirmed their trust" in Boutros-Ghali who is seeking a second term as UN chief despite a U.S. veto threat.

African heads of state and government "have requested me to undertake the necessary demarches to the member states of the United Nations to ensure that a second five-year term be given to Africa," said Biya.

"In this connection they recommended the candidature of Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

"We trust that the members of our organization will thus enable Africa to hold two successive terms at the head of the United Nations, just as in the past Asia, Europe and Latin America did."

UN diplomats noted that Biya essentially repeated the terms of the Yaounde summit declaration, which was considered by Washington at the time as expressing "lukewarm" support for Boutros-Ghali.

But African diplomats told AFP that Biya's comments, coming at the outset of his speech in which he also praised Boutros-Ghali's "tireless efforts" and "courage, dynamism and competence" as UN chief, demonstrated a strong show of support by the African continent for the secretary-general.

"He said that Africa must have a second term and our candidate is Boutros-Ghali," Sierra Leone's UN Ambassador James Jonah told AFP.

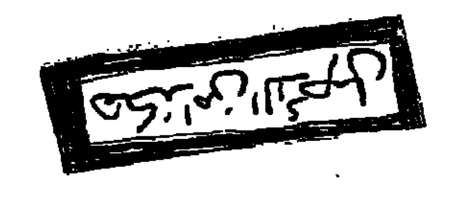
Botswana envoy Legwaila Legwaila also said that the speech was a "very strong statement" in favor of a second term for the 73-year old Egyptian.

But U.S. Assistant Secretary of State George Moose, who was also at the United Nations, commented that Biya's speech was "a starting point, not an ending point," in an apparent reference to the U.S. plans to unseat the UN chief by wielding its Security Council veto.

African diplomats insist that African Unity is solid in the face of the U.S. veto threat.

But they say privately that any sign of a compromise would be interpreted as a sign of weakness by Washington which they fear could ignore their demand for an African to serve two full mandates as UN chief.

Washington says that "special but not exclusive" consideration should be given to an African candidate to succeed Boutros-Ghali, and has been calling for other candidates to surface. *(AFP)*



Norway's New PM Pledges Action on Social Issues

OSLO — Norway's New Prime Minister Thorbjoern Jagland promised action on social issues Friday, as he introduced his 19-member Cabinet that includes a key player in the Middle East peace effort.

Jagland, 45, was the personal choice of the popular outgoing Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, who announced her resignation on Wednesday after being in power for 10 of the last 15 years.

He said he wanted to focus on five issues — the environment, better living standards for those less well off, care for the elderly, education and "the fight against violence, alcoholism and crime."

"The fight against unemployment is of utmost importance," the Labour Party chairman said at his first press conference as prime minister.

But at the same time, Jagland said he wanted to "pursue the economic policy" of his predecessor.

"Continuing to maintain prices at a low level to maintain employment is a cornerstone of this government's social welfare policy," Jagland said.

The most intriguing new member of the Cabinet is Terje Roed Larsen, a senior UN official who played a crucial role in the Israeli-PLO peace process in laying the ground for the 1993 Oslo Accords.

He leaves his latest job as UN coordinator for the Palestinian territories to become head of a newly-created Ministry of National Planning and Public Administration Reform.

Three weeks ago, in its 1997 budget, the Norwegian government predicted inflation next year to double to 2.5 percent, while GDP growth is to fall to 3.1 percent from 5.3 percent this year.

Norway nevertheless is one of the very few European countries with a healthy budget surplus. It reached 40.8 billion kroner ($6.3 billion) this year, thanks to oil and gas revenues.

Jagland said he has also decided to open a "green line" for the public, making it possible for Norwegians to regularly phone the prime minister or members of his Cabinet with their ideas and opinions.

His government is a mix of renewal and experience — the average age of the Cabinet is 45, with the youngest aged 29 and the eldest 61. Eight ministers are women, keeping a standard set by Brundtland.

Foreign Minister Bjoern Tore Godal remains in his job, but sees his role strengthened with the addition of EU and World Trade Organization affairs, formerly under the Trade Ministry, to his portfolio.

Jagland split the ministry for oil, energy and industry into two, with the outgoing minister, Jens Stoltenberg, moves up in rank and replaces Sigbjoern Johnsen as minister of finance.

Trade Minister Grete Knudsen will become trade and industry minister, while Justice Minister Grete Faremo will take over oil and energy.

Joergen Kosmo will remain defense minister, while Karl Eirik Schjoett-Pedersen will take over fisheries.

The decision to bring Larsen home from the Middle East to take over a domestic portfolio surprised many, as it would have seemed more natural to give him a ministry with more international assignments.

"There has been a lot of very challenging work during two and a half years," Larsen said. "It's gone from one crisis to another."

Brundtland, 57, who has served as prime minister three times since 1981, had been expected to step down this autumn, but the decision had not been expected so soon.

Smiling as she wiped a tear from her cheek, Gro, as she is affectionately called by Norwegians, said Friday was a hard day for her.

(AFP)

Japan, U.S. to Meet on Missile Defense System Next Week

TOKYO — Japan and the United States will hold a working-level meeting in Tokyo next week on a sophisticated ballistic missile defense system, the Foreign Ministry here said Friday.

The meeting on the Theater Missile Defense (TMD) system, to be held on Monday, will be the seventh round since December 1993.

Officials from Japan's Foreign Ministry and the Defense Agency, and from the U.S. Defense Department are scheduled to meet in Tokyo, the ministry said.

The TMD project has been advocated since 1993 by the U.S. Administration of President Bill Clinton. It is intended to counter enemy missiles with interceptor ballistic missiles, which are directed by using spy satellites.

The Japanese government has yet to make a decision on taking part in the TMD scheme, a ministry official said.

The Japan-U.S. working-level group has previously met in Honolulu in December 1993, in Washington in May 1994, in Tokyo in October 1994, May 1995 and this March, and the last session was held in Washington in August, the ministry said. (AFP)

British Tories Launch Tough Pre-election Crime Legislation

LONDON — The Conservative government on Friday unveiled the centerpiece of tough new anti-crime legislation, stepping up its pre-election campaign with a pledge to put 11,000 "dangerous" criminals behind bars within 15 years.

Under a stricter U.S.-style sentencing policy, judges would impose minimum sentences on persistent burglars and drug dealers and automatic life-terms for twice-convicted serious violent or sexual offenders.

Home Secretary Michael Howard described the legislation as "the biggest advance in the fight against crime this century," which would "increase the protection of the public."

Under the new measures, dealers in hard drugs convicted for a third time would be jailed for at least seven years. Burglars convicted for a third time would face a minimum three-year sentence. And a violent or sexual offender found guilty for the second time would get an automatic life sentence.

With less than seven months before the next general elections, which are due by May 1997, the Conservatives are pinning their hopes of reversing their huge opinion poll deficit on tough anti-crime legislation.

Earlier this month, the government announced that it would push for a draconian new gun control bill banning private ownership of virtually all handguns, in the wake of the massacre of 16 school children and their teacher in Dunblane, Scotland, last March.

But the sentencing measures drew fierce criticism from judges, who warned that they would produce "gross injustice" and undermine the independence of the Judiciary, as well as from opposition parties.

Lord Donaldson, former master of the rolls, one of the top judicial posts in the country, accused the government of removing judges' right to weigh up the circumstances in which a crime was committed.

"This will produce injustice, gross injustice in particular cases," he said.

"It may be that the second offense, or indeed both offenses, were committed under gross provocation, perhaps in a domestic context, (yet) they shall be sent to life imprisonment," he added.

Lord Donaldson also warned that magistrates had to remain independent of party politics, for justice to function properly.

"They (judges) have immense experience, which politicians do not have, and their loyalty is to justice," he said.

The main Labour opposition party, heavily favored to win the next general elections, was cautious in its response, pledging support for the introduction of mandatory life-sentences for violent and sexual offenders.

Labour Home Affairs Spokesman Jack Straw, who has sought to make Labour supplant the Conservatives as the law-and-order party, said that he wanted to look at the "small print" before making up his mind over the plans for minimum sentences for persistent burglars and drug dealers.

Labour leader Tony Blair pressed the Tories to go beyond their proposed ban on handguns by outlawing the sale of combat knives, in response to calls from the widow of Philip Lawrence, a London school principal killed by a 16-year-old armed with such a weapon.

But the centrist Liberal Democrat opposition party bitterly condemned Howard for "a blatant interference" with the discretion of judges.

Pledging to fight the proposals wholesale, the Liberal Democrats' Home Affairs Spokesman, Alex Carlisle, said, "This is just an attempt to use the sentencing system to produce some cheap headlines for Howard's claim that his is the party of law and order."

Penal reformers also warned that the new sentencing policy would send prison numbers soaring, worsening the already critical problem of over-crowding.

The National Association of Probation Officers said that the current prison population of England and Wales of 57,350 could be swelled by up to 25,000 over the next 15 years, and not 11,000, as the government claimed.

(AFP)

Serb Leader Denies Press Reports of Mladic Dismissal

BELGRADE -- Bosnian Serb leader Biljana Plavsic on Friday denied press reports that she had dismissed Army Commander Ratko Mladic.

Plavsic, quoted by Beta News Agency in an interview with the Serbian Radio-Jagodina, said she had only taken up her duties on October 19 and had not "had the time to replace Mladic."

"I should spend quite a lot of time writing denials to press reports," she added.

On Wednesday the Belgrade weekly *Nedelini Telegraf* said Plavsic had signed a decree ordering the retirement of Mladic, Chief of Staff Manojlo Milovanovic, Mladic's deputy Milan Gvero, the Head of Military Intelligence Zdravko Tolimir and about 80 other officers.

Plavsic added however that "some reorganizing will have to take place in all sectors of the Republika Srpska (the Serb entity in Bosnia), and not only in the army."

"The Republika Srpska must be strong because it faces a very difficult environment," she said, referring to the neighboring Muslim-Croat Federation, Bosnia's other post-war entity.

Mladic has been indicted by the UN War Crimes Tribunal along with former Serb political Radovan Karadzic on charges on genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. An international arrest warrant has been issued for both.

(AFP)

Singapore Says "Yes" to U.S. Open Skies Initiative

SINGAPORE — Singapore on Friday responded favorably to an "open skies" agreement proposed by the United States, keen to seal further such pacts with Asian nations to enable unlimited competition among airlines.

"Singapore looks forward to an early conclusion of an open skies agreement with the U.S.," said Teo Ming Kian, a senior official at Singapore's Ministry of Communications after extensive talks with a U.S. delegation here.

So far, Singapore had shown the maximum "intellectual leadership" on the issue and appeared willing to open itself to competition, Mark Gerchick, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of transportation for aviation and international affairs told reporters.

Singapore, an Asian aviation hub, has for years supported an open skies agreement and had proposed such an initiative between the U.S. and Asian countries earlier this year, Singapore aviation officials said.

Gerchik, accompanied by two other senior officials, is in Singapore as part of an Asian tour to discuss the possibility of open skies aviation pacts with the region.

They had visited South Korea and Taiwan and after Singapore would tour Malaysia and Brunei, officials said.

Taiwan and South Korea had responded cautiously to the Washington initiative.

Under an open skies agreement, governments agree to lift restrictions on the number of flights or their destinations. It will also liberalize pricing on international aviation routes, no longer requiring an airline to seek approval for a particular ticket price.

The pact will also allow for highly controversial so-called fifth freedom rights which allow an airline to pick up passengers at a transit destination and transport them to a third country.

"The conclusion of an open skies agreement between the U.S. and Singapore would strengthen air links between the two countries and allow the airlines of both sides to respond effectively to market forces," Teo said.

"This would benefit consumers and enhance tourism as well as bilateral trade and investments," he said.

Gerchik described the proposed U.S.-Asian open skies policy as a turning point in aviation history, setting a paradigm for relations between the two sides.

The United States has concluded open skies agreements with 12 European countries in the past 18 months, completely unbinding restrictions on international air traffic rights involving passenger and cargo services.

Cheong Choong Kong, chief executive officer of Singapore Airlines Ltd., had proposed earlier this year that the U.S. extend its open skies to cover the Asia-Pacific region, which based on traffic growth forecast is going to be the largest aviation market within 15 years.

He said U.S. passenger and cargo airlines operate more than 50 flights a week into Singapore, far more than in some European countries that have open skies agreements with the U.S., including Austria, Switzerland, Denmark and Findland.

Singapore airlines is the world's most profitable carrier.

(AFP)

Dalai Lama Warns of Violence in Tibet

STRASBOURG -- The Dalai Lama urgently appealed to Europe Wednesday to help Tibet in its struggle for autonomy from China, warning that the standoff is at a crucial stage and could erupt into violence.

Tibet's exiled spiritual leader told European MPs in Strasbourg that although he advocates only non-violent protests, certain elements within the country are increasingly frustrated at China's intransigence.

"There is an urgent need to make real progress in bringing about a peace process to the issue of Tibet. The lack of any progress .. is increasing the real danger of violent conflicts breaking out in Tibet," he said.

Speaking at the start of a European visit which will also include a trip to Germany, the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize winner appealed to the international community for urgent intervention, accusing Beijing of "bullying."

"The freedom struggle of the Tibetan people is at a crucial stage. In recent times the Chinese government has hardened its policies, increased repression in Tibet and resorted to bullying tactics in addressing the issue of Tibet.

"I am therefore left with no other choice but to appeal to the international community for urgent intervention and action on behalf of my people."

During a three-day stop in Strasbourg, the 61-year-old is to meet the heads of the European Parliament and the European Commission, as well as addressing deputies at the Euro-Parliament, currently in plenary session.

Afterwards he will travel to Germany and Helsinki, before returning to France to address deputies in the French National Assembly in Paris next Wednesday.

The spiritual leader has visited France five times previously: In 1983, 1986, 1988 1993 and 1994. He travels widely to press the international community over the fate of his homeland.

The Dalai Lama reminded Euro-deputies that he was not calling for Tibet's independence or separation from China, but rather autonomy for its six million inhabitants within China.

Recalling his intervention before the parliament Lama said: "I stated that the European Union is a clear example of this" and welcomed progress made due to pressure from the international community since then.

The crucial issue was the West's relations with Beijing, and how they could influence its development, he said. "China is at a critical junction: Its society is undergoing profound changes and the country's leadership is facing the transition to a new generation," he said.

A key topic for discussion here, in a country which has nearly 200,000 Buddhists, will be the succession of the Panchen Lama, number two in the Buddhist hierarchy, who died in 1989, Tibetan officials here said.

Disagreeing with China, the Dalai Lama has recognized as his successor five-year-old Nyima Choky. Beijing has chosen another young Tibetan for the role.

(AFP)